Nicodemus Slough

General Description

Nicodemus Slough encompasses approximately 2,200 acres of wet prairie, broadleaf marsh and prairie hammock south of the Herbert Hoover Dike (LD-3) and west of State Road 78. Scattered tree growth occurs along the western edge of the tract. Until recently, the construction of the Herbert Hoover Dike, coupled with the maintenance of lower stages in Lake Okeechobee, resulted in a shortened hydroperiod and general lowering of water levels in Nicodemus Slough. This in turn altered vegetative patterns on the property and allowed the spread of transitional and upland species.

Project Vision

The original SOR legislation specified Nicodemus Slough for purchase because the land floods periodically under the higher regulation stages of Lake Okeechobee. The installation of new water control structures along the south and east boundaries and associated improvements to the Canal 19/Levee-41/42 system, now completed, is intended to improve the retention and manipulation of flood waters on the property. One of the District's objectives for Nicodemus Slough is to restore the mix of community types that existed prior to human influences, while providing flood control to adjacent land owners.

A series of proposed hydrologic improvements should increase the coverage of the open water slough and depression marsh and improve the quality of the remaining wet prairie. A recent hydrologic study recommended removing the north-south berm located on the western edge of the property and filling in the associated ditch. This action will augment overland water flow from higher lands to the west and should help in increasing the hydroperiod on Nicodemus Slough.

Water and fire will be the major elements used to mold future successional vegetation patterns. Land management tools will be applied directly to assist natural functions (fire and water) in operating as freely as possible within the property boundaries. Direct management intervention will be limited to protecting the property from exotics, human induced fires, damaging wildfires and disturbances to cultural resources.

The District staff envisions making Nicodemus Slough available for fishing, picnicking, canoeing, hiking, nature observation, limited volume airboating and photography. Prohibited uses are hunting, power boating and the use of off-road vehicles.

During 1997, the District executed an agreement with AIM Engineering for management of Nicodemus Slough.

Natural Resource Management

Activity	Acres	Proposed
Exotic Control	2,000	2,000
Fire Management	400	800
Mowing/Chopping	200	200
Restoration		0

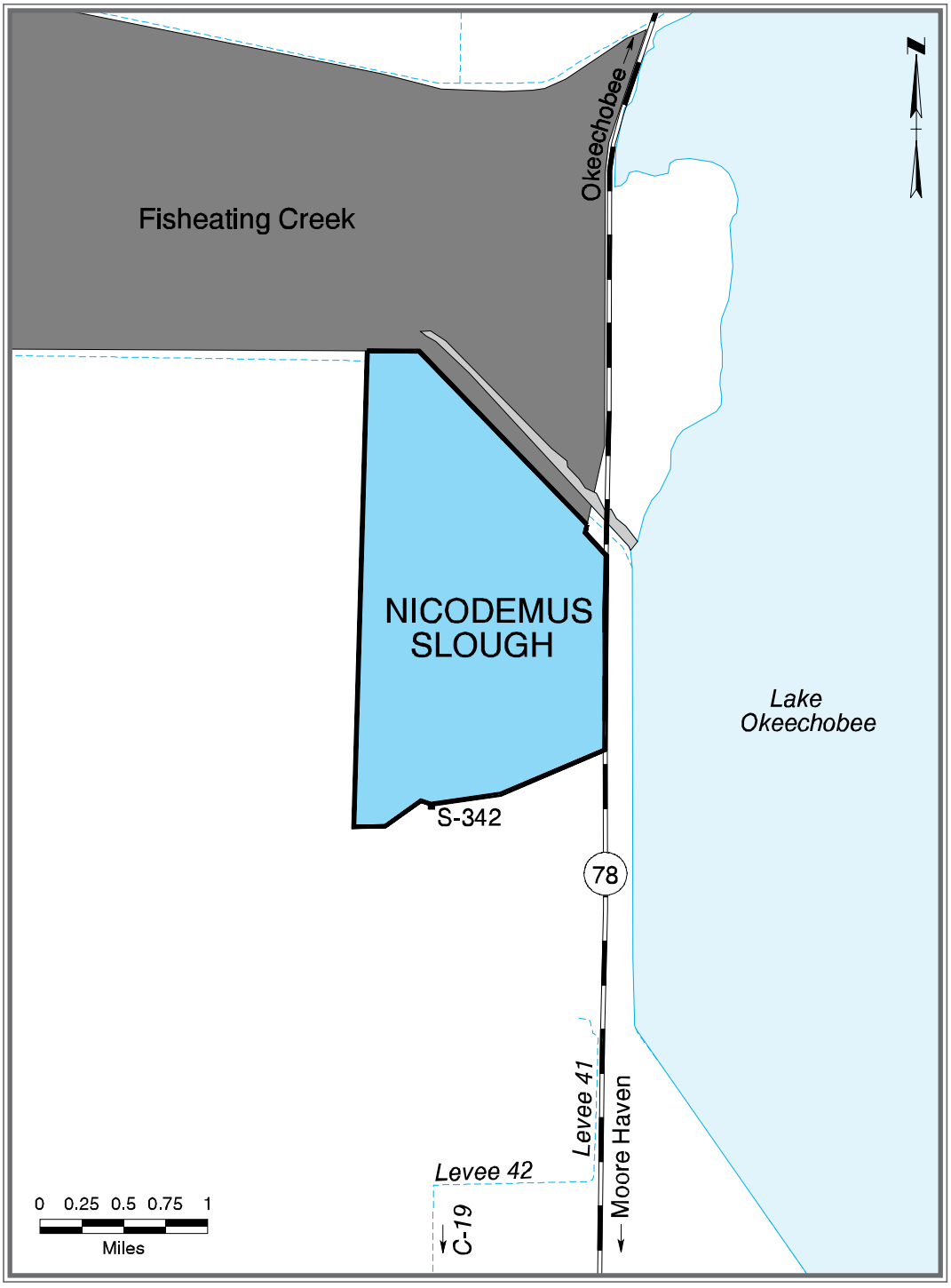
	Ongoing	Complete
General Clean-up		•
Waste Removal		•
Fencing/Posting		•
Security		
Glades County	•	

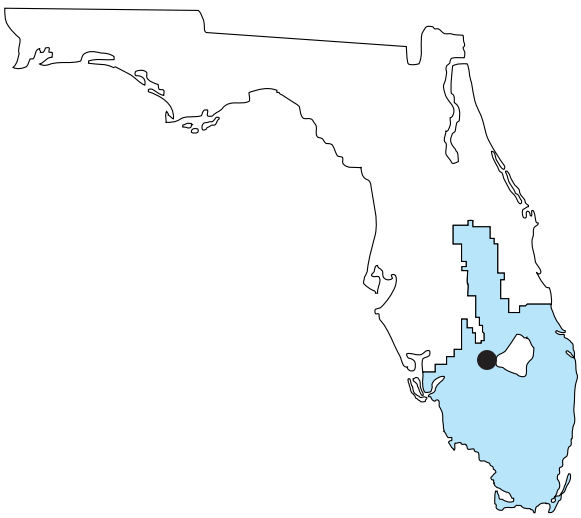
Public Use

	Yes	No
Fishing	•	
Hunting		•
Hiking	•	
Horseback Riding		•
Bicycling	•	
Camping		•
Airboating	•	
Boating	•	
Canoeing	•	
Environmental Education		

Planning

	Ongoing	Complete
Conceptual Planning		•
Hydrologic Restoration Plan	•	





SOR Lands Acquired to Date

Potential Acquisition Areas

Other Conservation Areas

Other SOR Projects

1997 Project Additions

SOR Project Boundary

County:
Glades

Acres Acquired (SOR):
2,219 acres

Acres Acquired (District):
10.4 acres

North Fork St. Lucie River

General Description

The stretch of North Fork of the St. Lucie River under consideration is approximately six miles long and extends from the White City bridge to the C-24 canal.

In 1995, the Governing Board modified the boundary, which added approximately 1,000 acres to the project. The additional acreage is scattered among several parcels along both sides of the river. Most of the additional lands are adjacent to tracts the state already owns.

The environmental quality of these tracts varies. Some are relatively undisturbed and dominated by large pines and mixtures of oak and cabbage palm, while other sites are heavily infested with exotic vegetation.

Between July 1996 and September 1997, the District acquired 292 acres. The board approved the acquisition of an additional 21 acres.

Importance of Water Management, Water Supply, and Conservation and Protection of Water Resources

More than 80 percent of the project covers wetlands within the river floodplain. The wetlands include hardwood swamp, low hammock, sawgrass marsh, and mangrove forest. The mangroves are limited to approximately the lower third of the project.

The floodplain wetlands reduce current velocities in the river, thereby spreading out and gradually releasing flood waters. This action also allows recharge of the surficial aquifer and filters nutrients, pollutants and suspended solids.

Potential for Restoring and/or Protecting Natural State and Condition

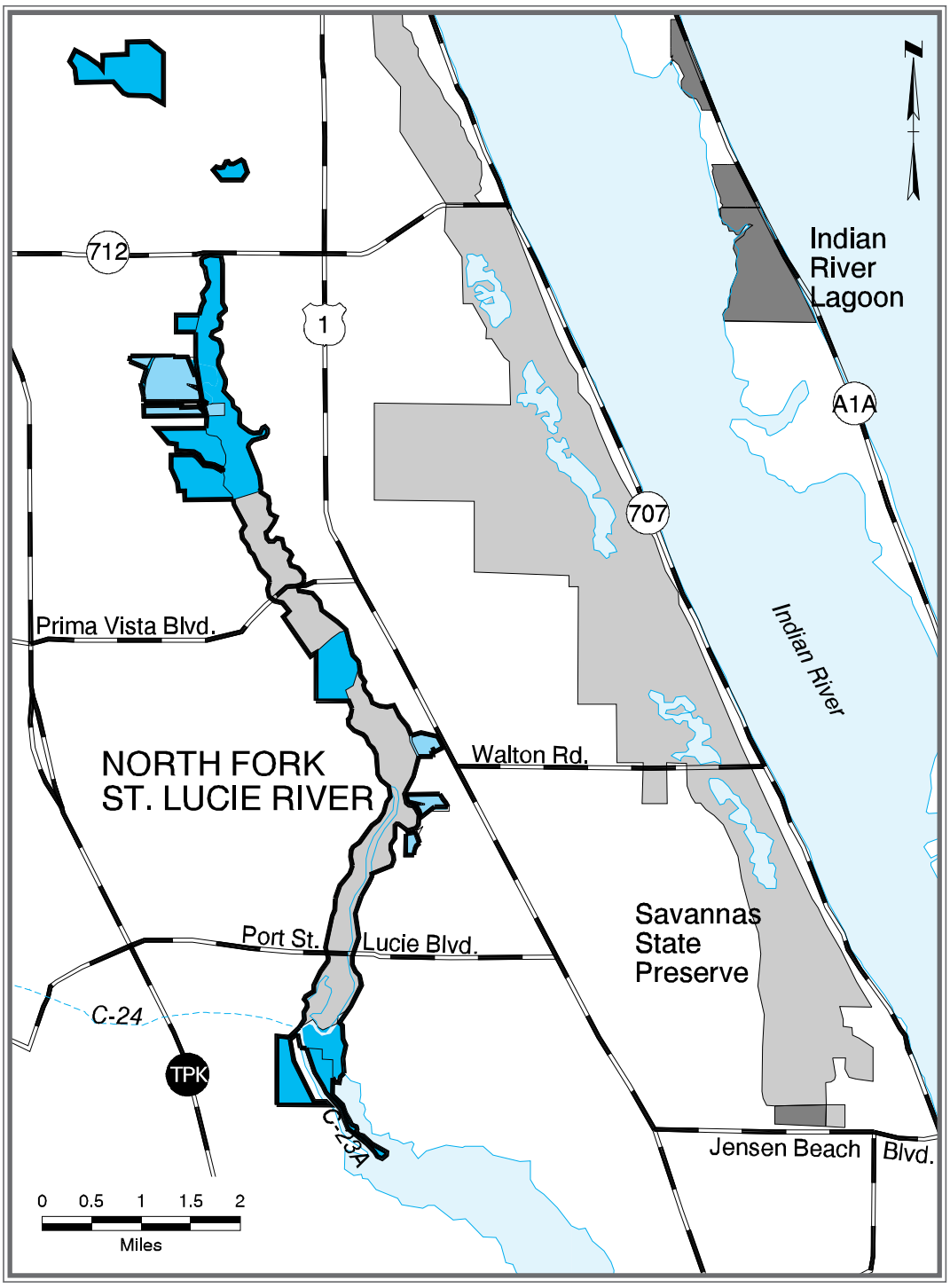
This stretch is included within the North Fork St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve and is classified as Outstanding Florida Water. In addition to the river floodplain, the project includes approximately 175 acres of high quality uplands, such as high hammock, pine flatwoods and sand pine scrub.

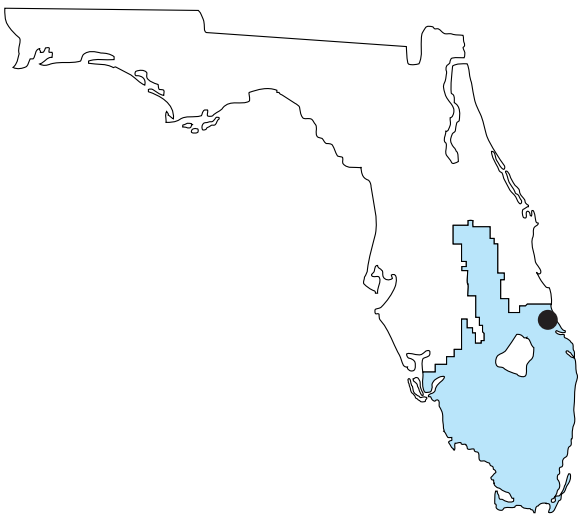
Potential for Managing and Maintaining in an Environmentally Acceptable Manner

Encroaching urban development is the project's greatest threat. No floodplain restoration or structure replacement appears necessary. Some exotic vegetation is present, but in controllable amounts. Both St. Lucie County and the City of Port St. Lucie have agreed to manage the property and commit funds for management if it is acquired.

Recreation Potential

Because of its proximity to the rapidly expanding areas of St. Lucie County, the property is readily accessible to potential users. Boating, fishing and canoeing are actively pursued on this part of the river. The willingness of local government to participate in management increases the likelihood of riverfront parks and other passive recreational facilities.





SOR Lands Acquired to Date

Potential Acquisition Areas

Other Conservation Areas

Other SOR Projects

1997 Project Additions

SOR Project Boundary

County:
St. Lucie

Total Project Area:
2,800 acres

Total Acres Acquired:
292 acres

Acreas Remaining:
2,508 acres

Number of Owners:
Numerous

North Savannas

General Description

The site contains a 930 acre remnant of the historic savannas community type in St. Lucie County. It is completely separated from the Savannas State Preserve by the City of Ft. Pierce. St. Lucie County owns two adjacent tracts, totalling 353 acres, which were purchased as mitigation for expansion of the St. Lucie County Airport.

Importance of Water Management, Water Supply, and the Conservation and Protection of Water Resources

Important water management functions of the site include attenuating peak discharges and improving water quality. The site promotes recharge to the surficial Aquifer, which is the primary source of potable water in St. Lucie County.

Potential for Restoring and/or Protecting Natural State and Condition

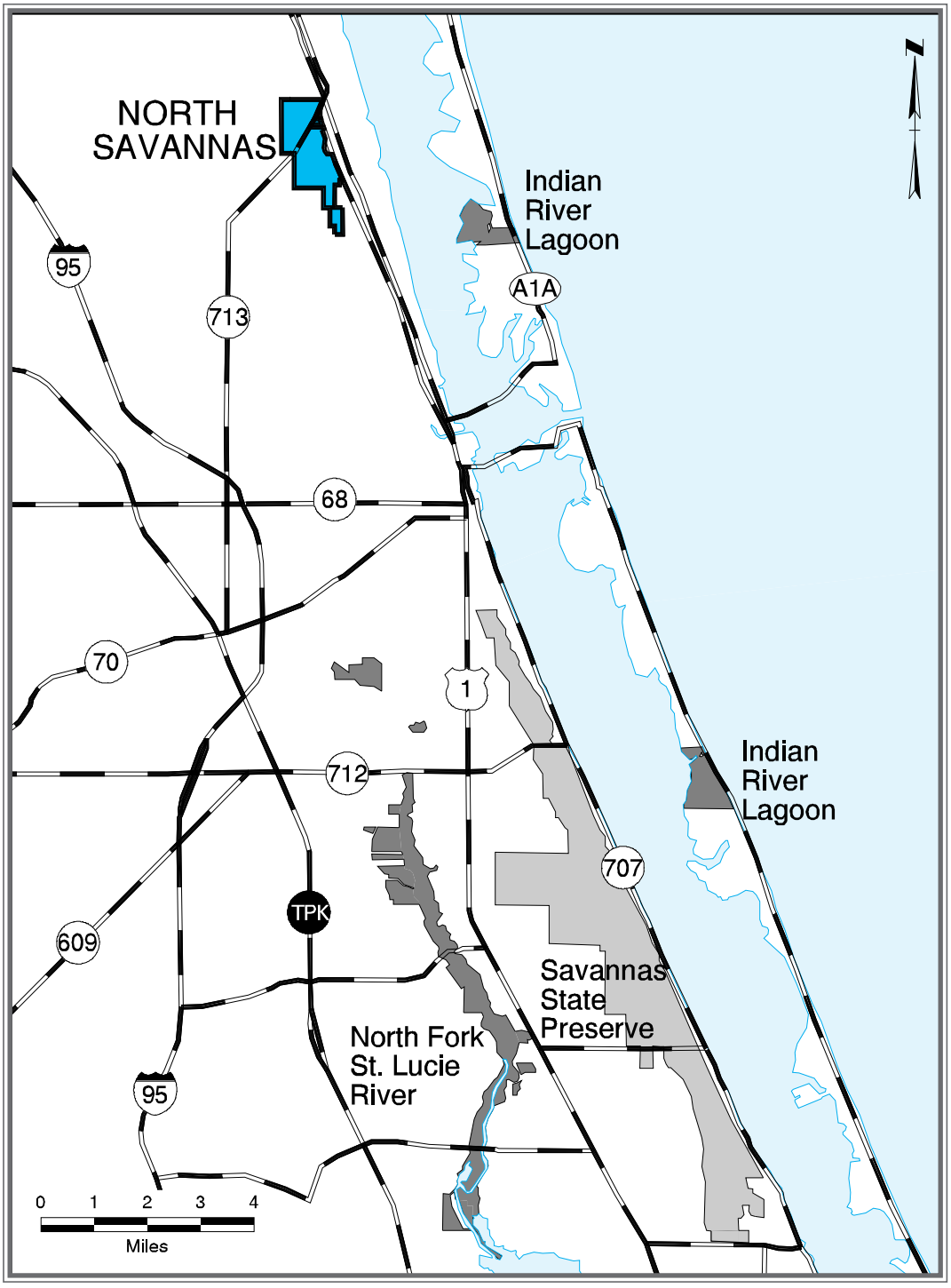
The site is in relatively good condition; however, numerous shellrock roads cross an old platted portion Removal of the old roads would probably benefit sheetflow.

Potential for Managing and Maintaining in an Environmentally Acceptable Manner

The site is very accessible, which may prove to be a security problem. Prescribed burning of the flatwoods would be difficult, due to the dense residential development immediately to the west and US Highway 1 to the east. Exotic vegetation is not a major problem at the present, but the area will require periodic checking and treatment.

Recreation Potential

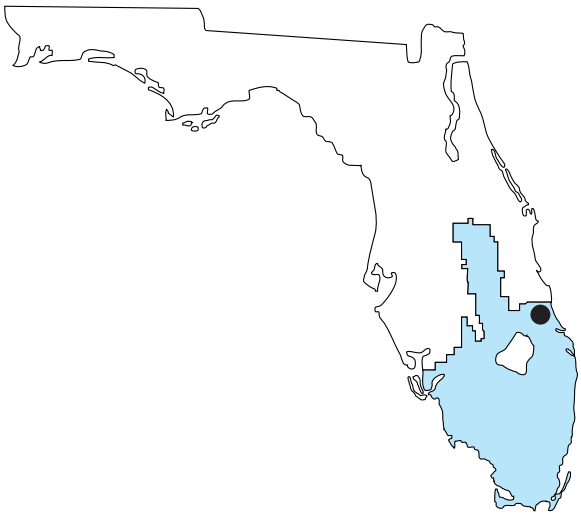
The site would be very suitable for hiking trails. Due to its proximity to a major metropolitan area, use of the property would probably be very high. The diversity of community types makes this area particularly appealing. Fishing in the deep water areas would be very popular.



County:
St. Lucie

Total Project Area:
930 acres

Number of Owners:
Numerous



SOR Lands Acquired to Date
Potential Acquisition Areas
Other Conservation Areas
Other SOR Projects
1997 Project Additions
SOR Project Boundary

Okaloacoochee Slough

General Description

In 1996, the District purchased 21,000 contiguous acres in the project. It is anticipated that CARL will acquire the remaining 8,000 acres.

In 1997, the District amended the SOR project boundary to include 1,920 acres that are the primary flowway for water moving from District-owned land in Okaloacoochee Slough to other private land in Collier County. Sawgrass slough in the deep water areas, with a fringe of hydric hammock and wet flatwoods dominate the three sections under consideration.

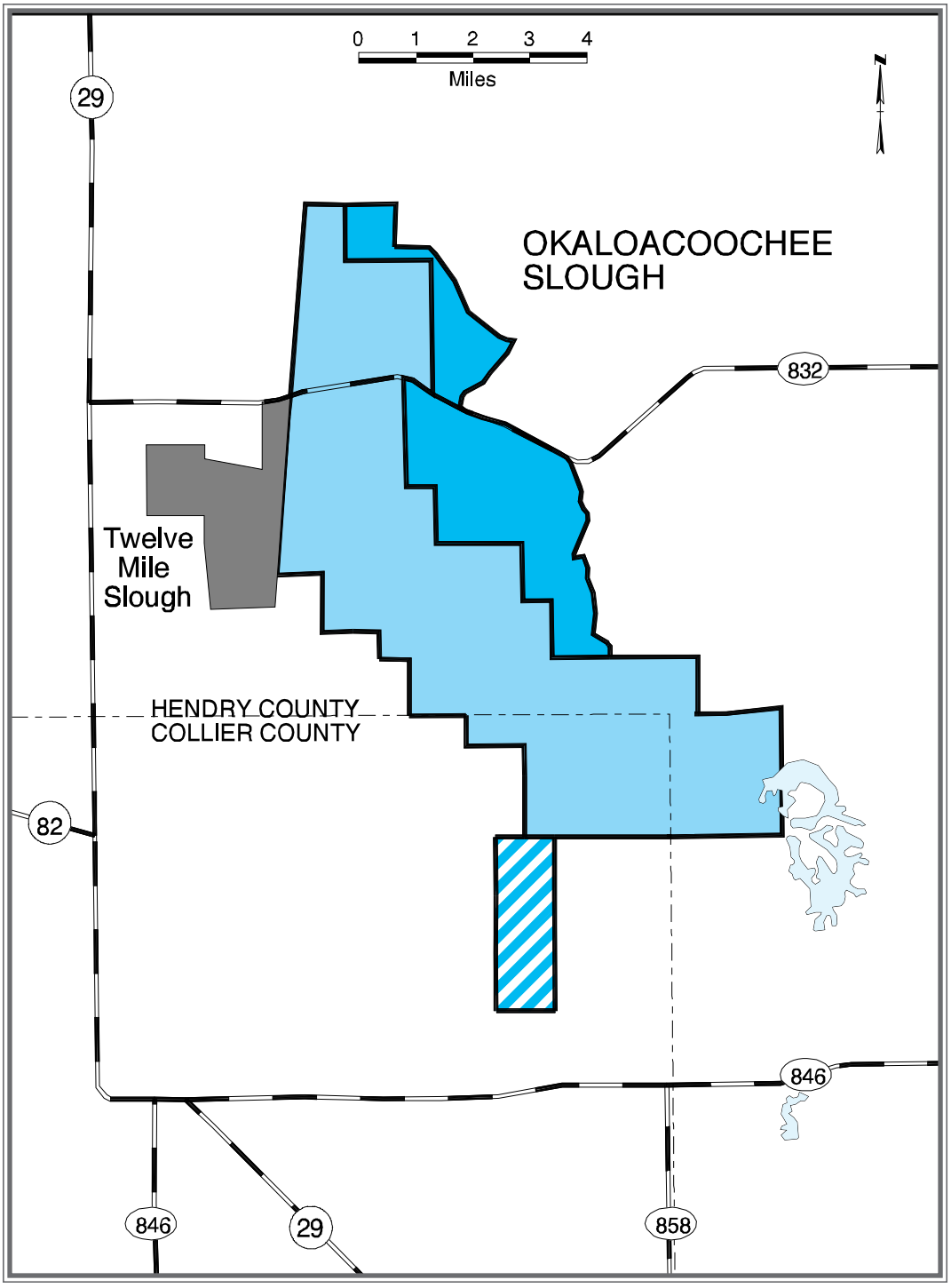
The property is used as native range pasture and is very well managed. These lands would be acquired only as a conservation easement. Under the proposed conditions of the lease, the landowners would be allowed to continue native range grazing, with no pasture improvement or fertilization allowed. They would be permitted to continue leasing the property for hunting. Continued prescribed burning and exotic treatment programs will be requirements of the lease.

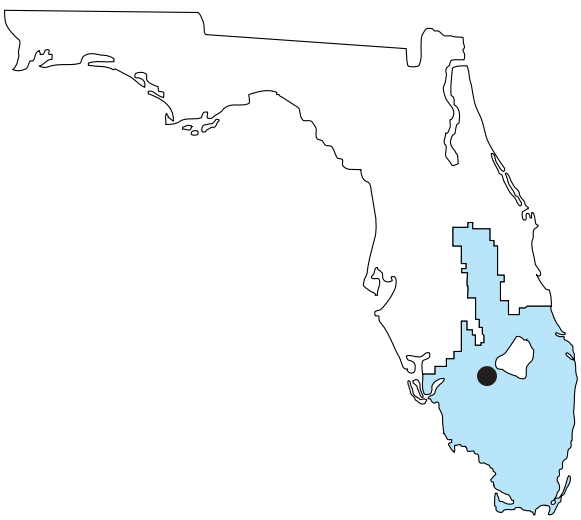
Project Vision

The vision for Okaloacoochee Slough is that it continues to be managed for its important water and natural resource values. Okaloacoochee Slough is a major headwater for Fakahatchee Strand and Big Cypress National Preserve. Its extensive network of sloughs and isolated wetlands store wet-season runoff from the surrounding uplands and provide year-round base flow to downstream natural areas. The entire project contains more than 12,000 acres of largely undisturbed wetlands, which are surrounded by oak and cabbage palm-dominated hydric hammocks.

The District anticipates that the Florida Division of Forestry will be he lead manager of the site. Preliminary discussions have been held with the Division of Forestry and preparation of a management plan will take place over the next one to two years.

Public access is very limited because of the deep sloughs that dominate the property. There are still 8,000 acres remaining to be acquired through the CARL program. If that occurs, much more upland acreage will become available for public use.





SOR Lands Acquired to Date

Potential Acquisition Areas

Other Conservation Areas

Other SOR Projects

1997 Project Additions

SOR Project Boundary

County:
Hendry

Total Project Area:
31,720 acres

Total Acreas Acquired:
21,702 acres

Acres Remaining:
10,018 acres

Number of Owners:
One

Pal-Mar

General Description

Pal-Mar is in northern Palm Beach and southern Martin Counties, east of the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. Pal-Mar is also a CARL project and, in 1997, was ranked number one on its bargain-shared list. Pal-Mar contains the largest contiguous complex of depression marsh, wet flatwoods and natural communities in the two counties. Acquisition of the entire project would form an unbroken 125,000 acre greenbelt extending from the DuPuis Reserve near Lake Okeechobee, across the Corbett Wildlife Management Area, and connecting with Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

In 1997, the District acquired another 630 acres, bringing the total acquisition area to more than 2,500 acres. Also in 1997, the District and Palm Beach County's Environmentally Sensitive Lands program agreed that the county and CARL would acquire the Palm Beach County portion, while the District and CARL would purchase the lands in Martin County.

Project Vision

Pal-Mar is a vast complex of pine flatwood, wet prairie and depression marsh. This land is stable ecologically and among the highest quality pine flatwoods in South Florida. The District's objective is to maintain its existing ecological quality through land acquisition, and by applying land management tools such as regular prescribed fires, exotic plant control and security.

The District will conduct an environmental inventory which will be used to guide the land management activities. Because federally endangered bird species use these lands to feed and/or nest, the District would follow standard state and federal management procedures to protect the nesting areas. Recreational use would probably be high, particularly if used as a wildlife management area. Several deepwater canals remain from earlier attempts to drain the property. Since these canals have no positive outfall, they provide good fishing.

Natural Resource Management

Activity	Acres	Proposed
Exotic Control	300	2,000
Fire Management		500
Mowing/Chopping	2	2
Restoration		•

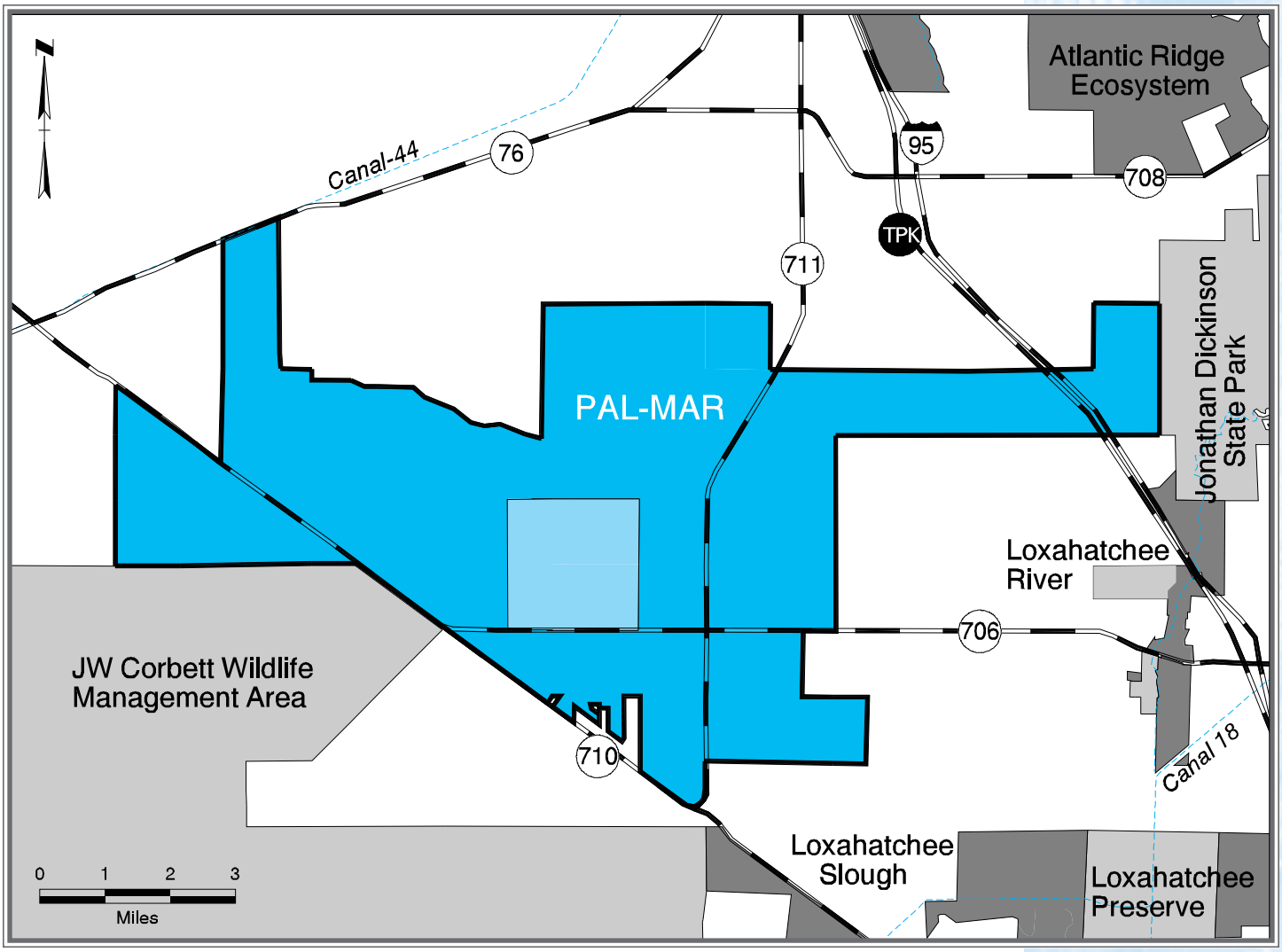
	Ongoing	Complete
General Clean-up	•	
Waste Removal	•	
Fencing/Posting	•	
Security		
Private	•	

Public Use

	Yes	No
Fishing	•	
Hunting		•
Hiking	•	
Horseback Riding		•
Bicycling		•
Camping	•	
Airboating		•
Environmental Education	•	

Planning

	Ongoing	Complete
Conceptual Planning	•	
Hydrologic Restoration Plan		

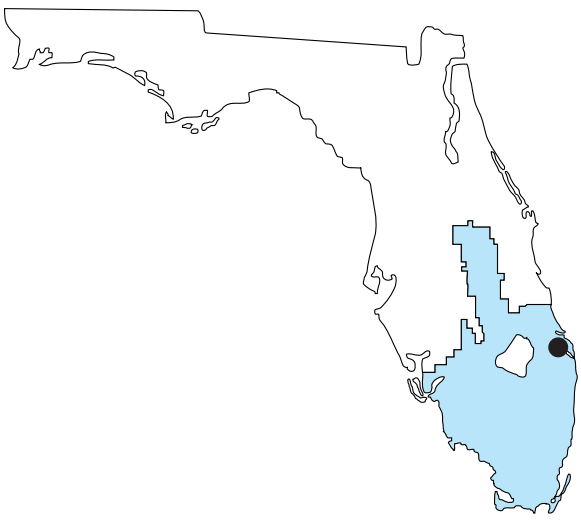


Counties:
Martin and Palm Beach

Total Project Area:
35,435 acres

Total Acres Acquired:
2,552 acres

Acres Remaining:
32,883



SOR Lands Acquired to Date
Potential Acquisition Areas
Other Conservation Areas
Other SOR Projects
1997 Project Additions
SOR Project Boundary

Paradise Run

General Description

The project lies west of Canal-38, between Structure-65 E and Lake Okeechobee. Unlike the other pools of the Kissimmee River, Paradise Run will not be reflooded by Level II Backfilling, since it is controlled by the stage in Lake Okeechobee. Remnant river oxbows are still present, although the surrounding land has been drained and is now improved pasture.

Importance of Water Management, Water Supply, and Conservation and Protection of Water Resources

Paradise Run has degenerated because it receives no continuous surface water input to allow it to operate as a flowing riverine system. Runoff from adjacent uplands is the primary source of water. Flap-gated structures in the Levee-59 Borrow Canal can discharge water into Paradise Run when stages are high enough, but that does not occur on a regular basis. Paradise Run is physically separated from Canal-38 by a continuous spoil pile. Numerous wetlands still exist adjacent to the old river channel. Although these wetlands suffer from a lack of water, according to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Paradise Run still has high wildlife utilization in the form of water fowl and wading birds.

Potential for Restoring and/or Protecting Natural State and Condition

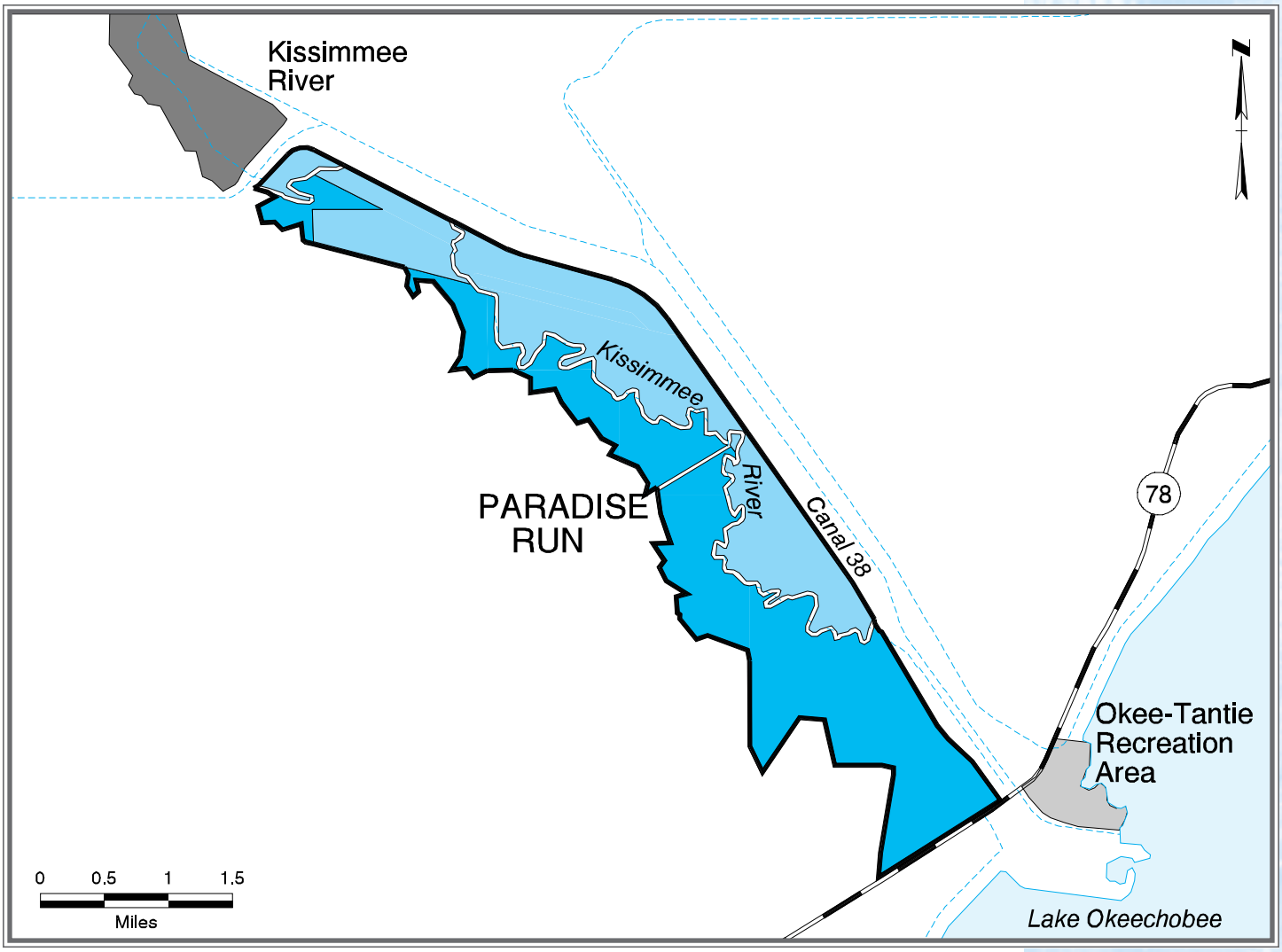
Since water levels in Paradise Run will not be affected by Kissimmee River restoration, other structural methods will have to be employed to provide a continuous flow of water to the reach. It appears that several engineering solutions exist. To date, time and funds have not been available to explore fully the various possibilities. Paradise Run suffers from lack of flow, resulting in stagnant conditions and low dissolved oxygen levels. Increased flows would improve greatly the quality of water being discharged to Canal-38 and Lake Okeechobee, as well as increase the habitat diversity gained by a flowing system versus a confined wetland.

Potential for Managing and Maintaining in an Environmentally Acceptable Manner

Land management in Paradise Run will be difficult if restoration of the floodplain cannot be accomplished. The present land use is improved pasture and cattle grazing.

Recreation Potential

If connected with Canal-38 and constant flows reestablished, there is excellent potential for canoeing, fishing, and wildlife observation. Paradise Run's close proximity to the City of Okeechobee and Lake Okeechobee would make it a popular recreational destination. It is also possible that the Florida National Scenic Trail would be extended through Paradise Run.

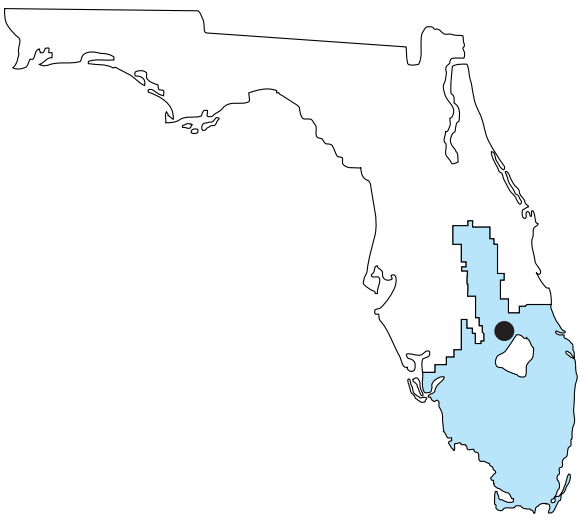


Counties:
Glades and Okeechobee

Total Project Area:
4,265 acres

Total Acres Acquired:
1,406

Acres Remaining:
2,859



SOR Lands Acquired to Date
Potential Acquisition Areas
Other Conservation Areas
Other SOR Projects
1997 Project Additions
SOR Project Boundary

Parker-Poinciana

General Description

Parker-Poinciana covers approximately 1,970 acres in Osceola and Polk Counties. It lies between the Disney Wilderness Preserve and District-owned lands already acquired as part of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes SOR project along the north shore of Lake Hatchineha. It contains a variety of community types, including mesic flatwoods, a large cypress/bay head, logged-over flatwoods, and hydric hammock along the Lake Hatchineha shoreline. This tract has been permitted by the District and DEP for residential development. The present land use is cattle grazing.

Importance of Water Management, Water Supply, and Conservation and Protection of Water Resources

The project drains south to Lake Hatchineha via London Creek. The property contains numerous small cypress domes, as well as one large dome of several hundred acres. Shallow ditches and swales have been excavated to drain the wetlands and increase the amount of grazable pasture. Several of these ditches extend to the edge of Disney Wilderness Preserve and impact that site. Acquisition would enable these drainages to be blocked. This property contains a variety of upland and wetland communities, and is directly connected with other protected lands. Land previously purchased by the District that connects with this tract includes more than one mile of shoreline on Lake Hatchineha.

Potential for Restoring and/or Protecting Natural State and Condition

Many of the wetlands on site have been connected with shallow ditches and swales, but most of these areas should be easily restorable with earthen ditch plugs, which would also stop the overdrainage of Disney Wilderness Preserve. Exotic vegetation does not appear to be a problem. There are several hunting cabins and campsites, but no permanent residences. The site has been regularly burned, but probably on a cycle to promote the growth of non-native pasture grasses. The implementation of growing season prescribed fires at the Disney Wilderness Preserve is transforming many former pastures into wiregrass-dominated understories.

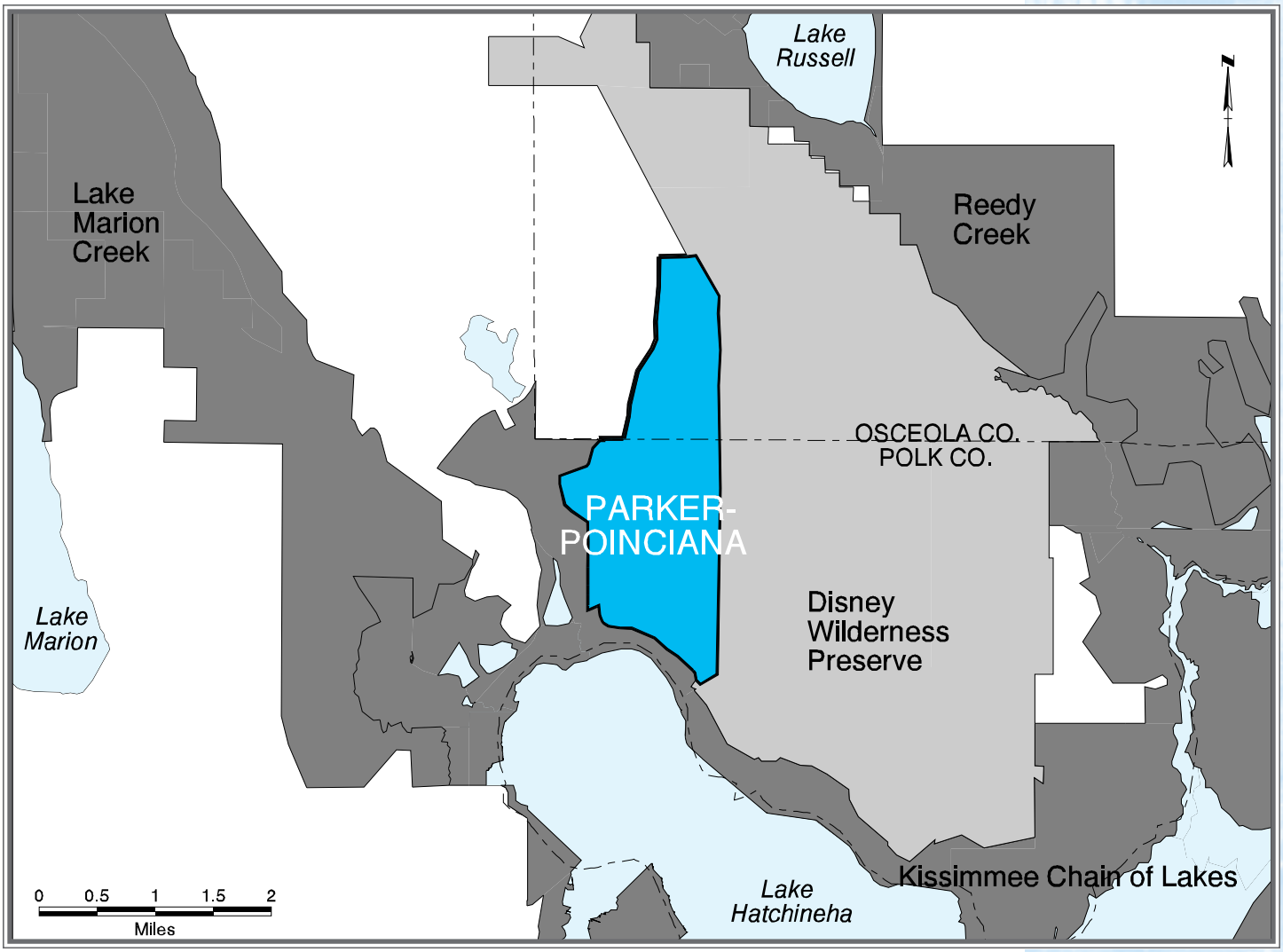
The diversity of community types and proximity to other large, undisturbed tracts of land creates excellent habitat for a wide variety of game and non-game wildlife species. Deer, turkey, sandhill cranes, Sherman's fox squirrel, scrub jays, gopher tortoises, and many species of wading birds have all been observed.

Potential for Managing and Maintaining in an Environmentally Acceptable Manner

It is proposed that the property be managed by The Nature Conservancy, in conjunction with their management of Disney Wilderness Preserve. The project would be developed as a mitigation bank by TNC. Hydrologic restoration and reestablishment of a longleaf pine/wiregrass community would be the major management goals.

Recreation Potential

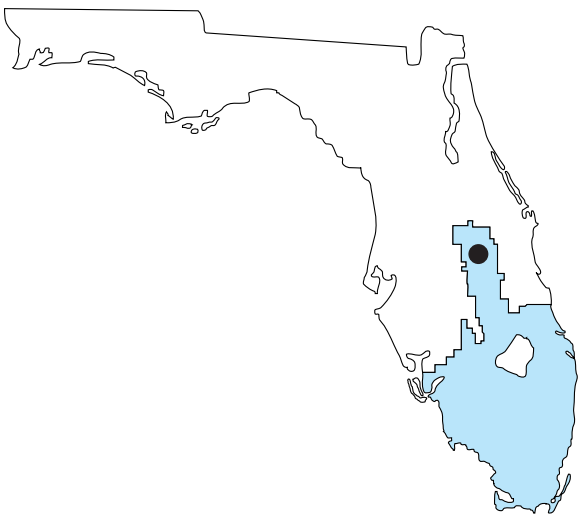
An access road runs north-south through the property, with numerous arterial woods roads. The property has excellent public use potential. It is very accessible, and contains a variety of habitats where hiking, wilderness camping, and horseback riding are possible.



Counties:
Osceola/Polk

Total Project Area:
1,970 acres

Number of Owners:
One



SOR Lands Acquired to Date
Potential Acquisition Areas
Other Conservation Areas
Other SOR Projects
1997 Project Additions
SOR Project Boundary

Savannas

General Description

The Savannas is in St. Lucie and Martin counties. It forms a chain of marshes and lakes that separate the inland pine flatwoods from the coastal scrub on the Atlantic Ridge. It is also a CARL project, and ranked number five on its "substantially complete" list. The CARL program has acquired nearly all the 4,800 acres. The District has purchased 77 acres in the Martin County portion.

The project is quite biologically diverse and includes scrub, mesic flatwoods, and depression marshes.

Importance of Water Management, Water Supply, and Conservation and Protection of Water Resources

The freshwater aquifer, which underlies the Savannas, is not productive enough for municipal uses. However, the recharge that occurs along the coastal ridge holds back the saltwater wedge, thereby reducing the danger of saltwater intrusion.

Habitat types are diverse and include sand pine scrub, open water sloughs, emergent marshes, and low pine flatwoods. The wetlands are important feeding and nesting sites for wading birds whose habitat has been lost to urban development in St. Lucie and Martin counties. The Savannas is under heavy development pressure on both the east and west sides.

Potential for Restoring and/or Protecting Natural State and Condition

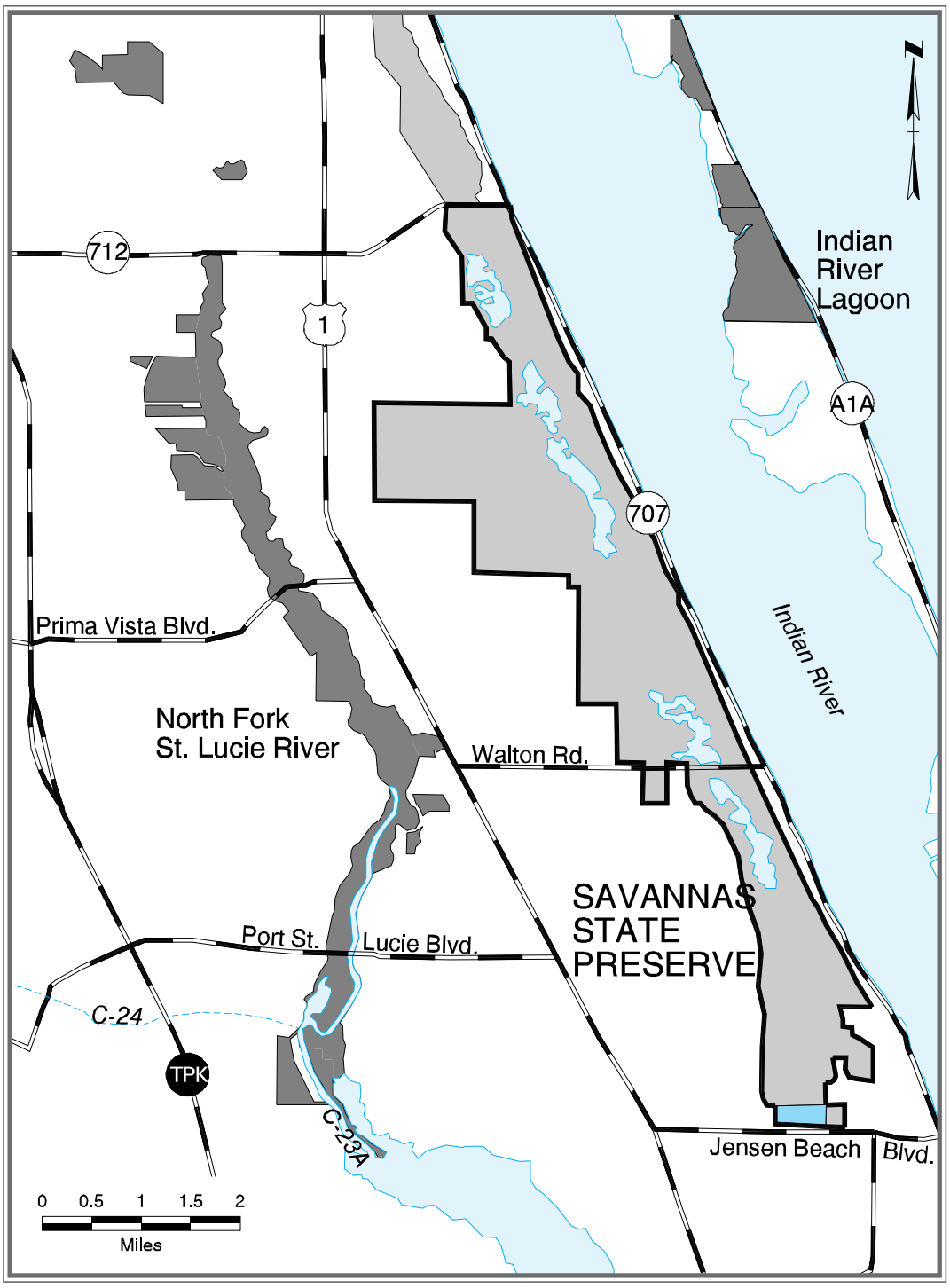
The Savannas is one of the most unique and endangered natural systems in the District. It is a remnant coastal wetland system, which historically extended along most of the Southeast Florida coast. Most of the area is in its natural state, thus eliminating the need for restoration. The wetlands are highly susceptible to degradation by stormwater inputs from urban development.

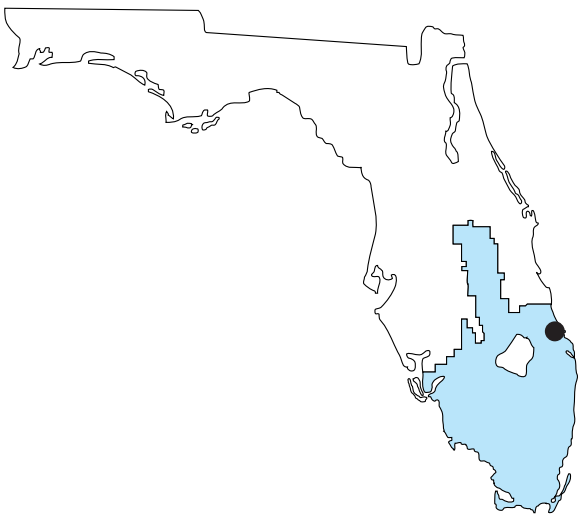
Potential for Managing and Maintaining in an Environmentally Acceptable Manner

Exotic plant growth is minimal. Wetland communities are still in good condition. Extensive hydrologic restoration does not appear necessary. The Division of Recreation and Parks of the Department of Environmental Protection manages it as the Savannas State Preserve.

Recreation Potential

Public use of the Savannas is very high by fishermen, canoeists, and photographers. Its close proximity to urban population centers will increase its use by the public and school groups.





SOR Lands Acquired to Date

Potential Acquisition Areas

Other Conservation Areas

Other SOR Projects

1997 Project Additions

SOR Project Boundary

Counties:
Martin and St. Lucie

Total Project Area:
5,900 acres

Total Acres Acquired:
77

Land Cost:
$3,100,000

Number of Owners:
Numerous

Shingle Creek

General Description

Shingle Creek Swamp covers more than 7,000 acres in southern Orange and northern Osceola Counties. It is a major receiving body for storm water runoff from areas south and southwest of Orlando. The Orange County portion of the swamp is more than 1.5 miles wide, and is dominated by cypress, loblolly bay, and red maple. Water depths of 24" during much of the year are common. The swamp is bisected in the north-south and east-west directions by an Orlando Utility Authority transmission line and access road. Shingle Creek itself was channelized in the 1920's and it borders the eastern edge of the swamp. Most of the floodplain in Osceola County is intact, but adjacent uplands, which historically were wiregrass/longleaf pine-dominated systems, have been cleared and planted as improved pasture.

As mitigation for the Orlando Beltway Southern Connector, a hydrologic restoration plan was implemented in 1995 which will equalize water levels and sheetflow across the Orange County portion of Shingle Creek Swamp. A 100' long stabilized swale was cut across the Orlando Utility Authority powerline access road to equalize water levels and improve sheetflow. Prior to construction of the swale, water levels on the upstream side of the road were as much as 1.5' higher.

The District currently owns more than 1,100 acres in Orange County, and nearly half of that was obtained at no cost through the mitigation process. It is likely that the remaining lands in Orange County, east of the powerline, will also come through mitigation. The western portion of the project was platted into more than 1,000 individual lots many years ago. The District has no plans to actively pursue acquisition in this area due to the number of landowners and small lot sizes.

Restoring and/or Protecting Natural State and Condition

Shingle Creek Swamp is largely isolated, except for its connection with Shingle Creek, which flows along the eastern border of the swamp. It plays a very important water management role because it receives the stormwater from most of Valencia Water Control District (VWCD). The swamp has several wetland habitat types, but it has been divided by two powerline easements and their associated service roads. The swamp plays major roles in flood attenuation and water quality improvement.

Managing and Maintaining in an Environmentally Acceptable Manner

The University of Florida College of Landscape Architecture is working with the District to develop a plan which will address public use for the project as a whole. Orange and Osceola Counties, the City of Kissimmee, and the District are also working cooperatively to establish a “greenbelt” along Shingle Creek which will link common areas.

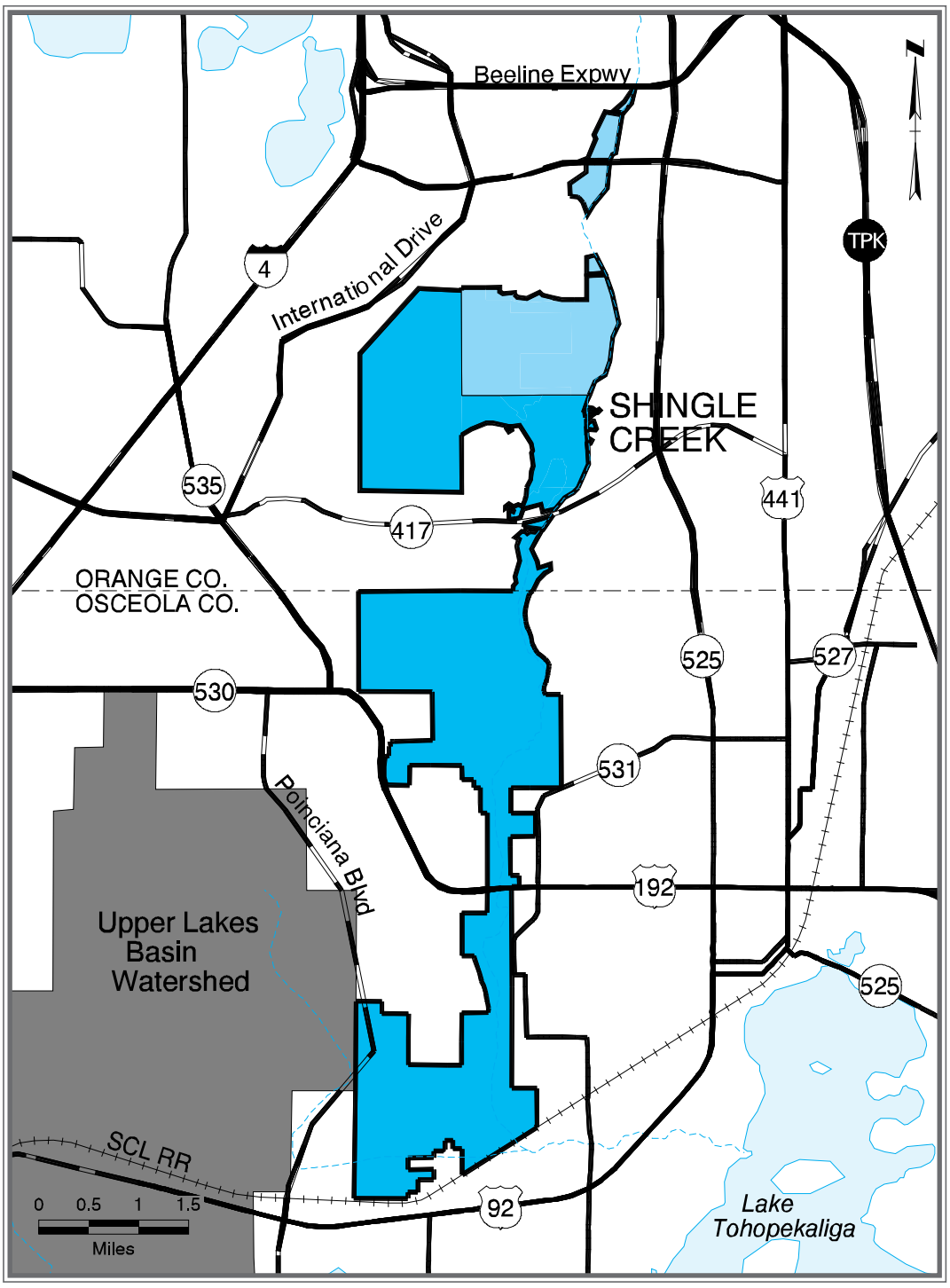
District-owned lands are dominated by forested wetlands, which are not fire dependent communities. If additional uplands are acquired in the future, fire management plans will be developed. Primrose willow appears to be the only nuisance exotic present on District-owned lands. The majority is along rights-of-way maintained by Orlando Utility Authority.

Construction of the powerline road swale will greatly improve water movement in the northern part of Shingle Creek Swamp. There may be opportunities for the installation of two additional swales to further facilitate sheet flow.

The lands adjacent to the floodplain in Osceola County have been cleared and planted as improved pasture. It is the District's intent to reestablish the native wiregrass groundcover and longleaf pine canopy layer, as well as block numerous shallow swales and ditches which have altered the hydrology.

Public Recreation

Canoeing in Shingle Creek is a popular activity. The berm along the west side of the creek would be an excellent place for a hiking trail. Additional hiking trails and primitive camping areas could be established on upland islands within the swamp. As mitigation for wetland impacts associated with commercial development, the District will gain title to a small tract in the northwest corner of the Orange County portion of the project which will provide public access to the interior of the swamp. In addition, the developer will donate land for the construction of a small public parking area and trailhead.



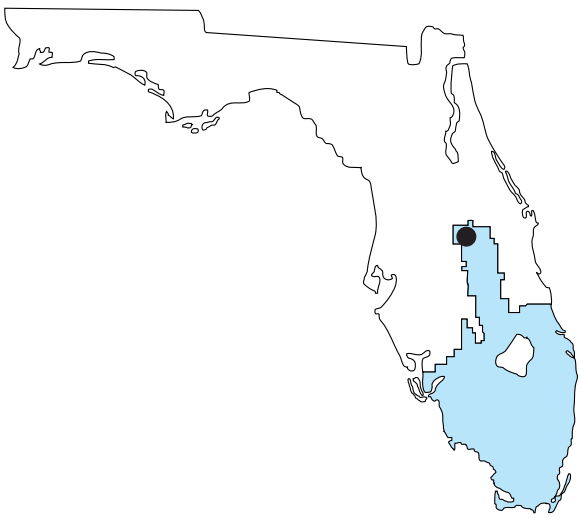
Counties:
Orange and Osceola

Total Project Area:
7,655 acres

Total Acres Acquired:
1,132

Land Cost:
$1,344,400

Acres Remaining:
6,523



SOR Lands Acquired to Date
Potential Acquisition Areas
Other Conservation Areas
Other SOR Projects
1997 Project Additions
SOR Project Boundary

Six Mile Cypress

General Description

Six Mile Cypress Slough occupies approximately 2,000 acres in Lee County southeast of the City of Ft. Myers. It extends from State Road 82 southwesterly for approximately nine miles to Ten Mile Canal. The slough averages 1,500 feet in width. The Slough consists of cypress swamp, interspersed with numerous open ponds. It is fringed with pine flatwoods, transitional hardwoods, wet prairies, and stands of Melaleuca. During the 1996 plan period the District acquired twenty acres of the project lands.

Project Vision

South Florida Water Management District has an agreement with Lee County for county management of Six Mile Cypress Preserve. One of the primary goals of the county is to provide an optimum hydroperiod for the continued health and establishment of cypress and associated vegetation types through hydroperiod management. In 1991, a water control structure near 10 mile canal was modified to provide higher water stages in the slough. Another county goal is protecting surface water quality to maintain optimum biological productivity

The vision for this project includes eradication and control of exotic pest plants and reforestation in areas where exotic plants are thick. Developing habitat for wildlife through maintaining a productive ecological system is an objective of the program.

An environmental education center has been developed. Associated trails introduce people to the Preserve. Public use includes hiking, picnicking, nature study and fishing. Lee County schools use the Slough extensively for outdoor classroom field visits.

Natural Resource Management

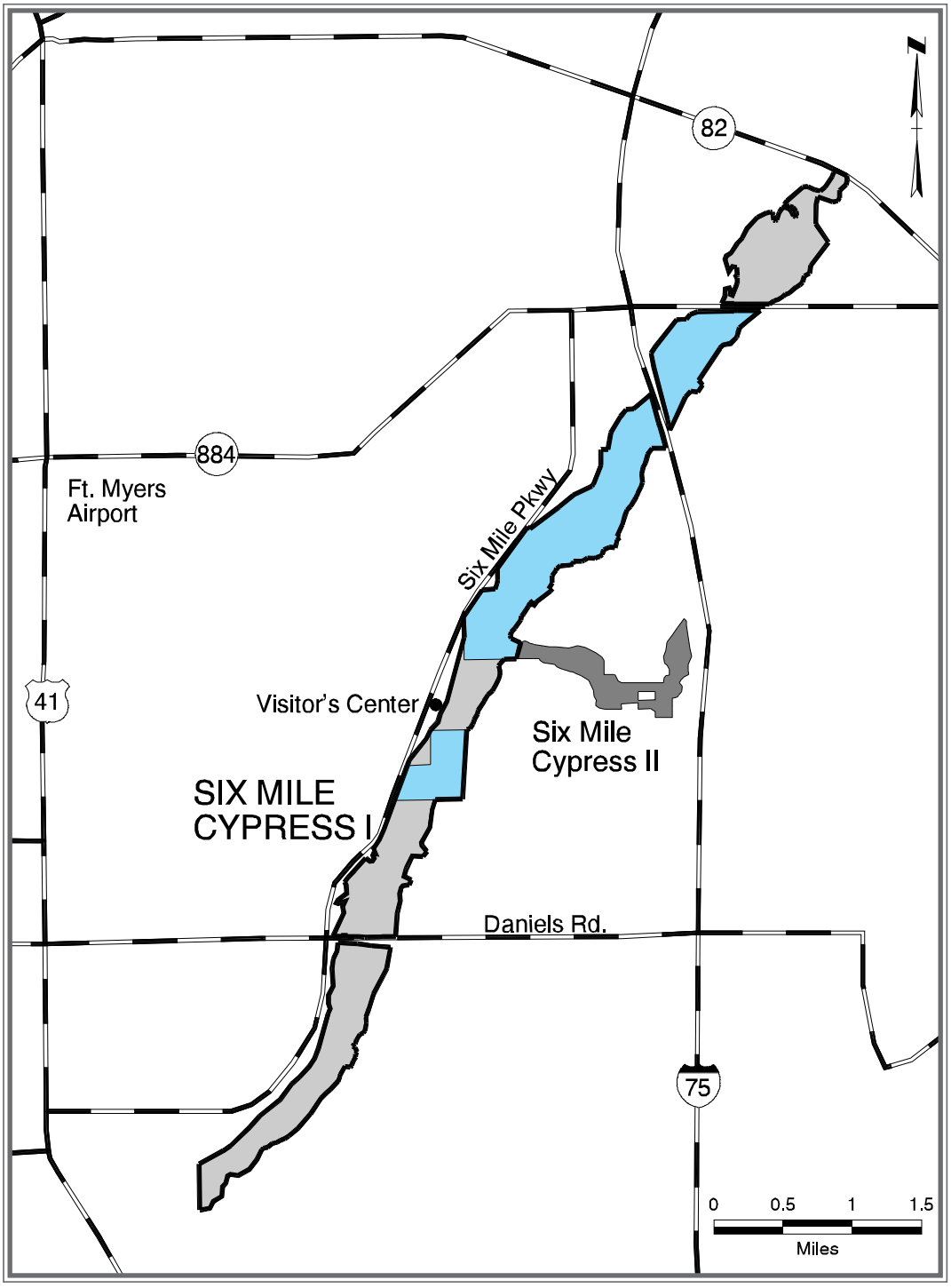
Activity	Ongoing	Proposed
Exotic Control	•	
Fire Management	•	
Mowing/Chopping	•	
Restoration	•	
	Ongoing	**Complete**
General Clean-up		•
Waste Removal		•
Fencing/Posting		•
Security		
County	•	

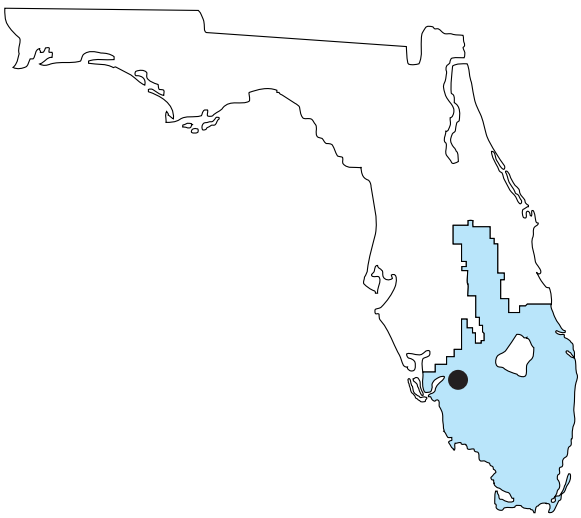
Public Use

	Yes	No
Fishing	•	
Hunting		•
Hiking	•	
Horseback Riding		•
Bicycling		•
Camping		•
Airboating		•
Environmental Education	•	

Planning

	Ongoing	Complete
Conceptual Planning		
Hydrologic Restoration Plan		
Public Input		
County Committee		
Cooperative Management Agreement(s)		
Lee County		





SOR Lands Acquired to Date

Potential Acquisition Areas

Other Conservation Areas

Other SOR Projects

1997 Project Additions

SOR Project Boundary

County:
Lee

Total Project Area:
1,741 acres

Total Acres Acquired:
839

Land Cost (SOR):
$1,975,321

Acres Acquired by Others:
966.73

Six Mile Cypress II

General Description

Six Mile Cypress Slough occupies approximately 2,000 acres in Lee County, southeast of the City of Ft. Myers. It extends from State Road 82 southwesterly for approximately nine miles to Ten Mile Canal. The slough averages 1,500 feet in width. This project (Six Mile Cypress II), locally known as the North Arm, covers approximately 225 acres and appears to be a transitional arm of the main slough. It extends to the east for approximately two miles and varies in width from 400' - 1000'. The arm collects runoff from the north and areas east of I-75. Box culverts under the interstate direct runoff through the arm and into the main strand of Six Mile Cypress. The slough consists of cypress swamp, interspersed with numerous open ponds. It is fringed with pine flatwoods, transitional hardwoods, wet prairies, and Melaleuca.

Potential for Restoring and/or Protecting Natural State and Condition

Lee County has agreed to develop, operate and maintain the slough as a nature preserve under an agreement with the District. A detailed description of the slough is contained in the Six Mile Cypress Slough Management Plan prepared by the County in 1986. Specific actions to implement the plan are set forth in the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve Land & Water Management Plan prepared by the County and approved by the District in 1988.

Six Mile Cypress Basin is being studied as part of the Lee County Surface Water Management Master Plan. It will recommend design criteria to prevent further degradation and slough enhancement. A principal objective will be to restore a more natural hydroperiod to aid in wetland revitalization.

The District, through its local Government Assistance Program, is working with Lee County to develop a Surface Water Management Master Plan for Six Mile Basin. The plan will propose management strategies, such as revitalization of flow ways, to restore flows to the North Arm and main strand of the slough.

Melaleuca and Brazilian pepper are problem exotics that have proliferated in certain portions of the slough. Native vegetation has been completely replaced by Melaleuca in approximately 200 acres. A vigorous eradication/control program involving chemical and mechanical applications is planned to halt the future spread of these species. Reforestation with native species will be undertaken where large stands of exotics are removed.

Managing and Maintaining in an Environmentally Acceptable Manner

The entire perimeter of the slough is being posted to prevent unauthorized access, and problem areas are being fenced and/or barricaded. Routine patrol will be provided by preserve personnel and the Lee County Sheriff's Department.

A prescribed burning program is proposed for the pine flatwoods north of Penzance Road to maintain the species composition of this community and prevent the buildup of fuels that could result in damaging wildfires. Fire lanes will be constructed to facilitate the burns and to protect sensitive cypress and hardwood areas. Wildfires will be suppressed only when considered necessary to protect adjacent lands and highway travel or when preserve resources would be subject to irreparable damage.

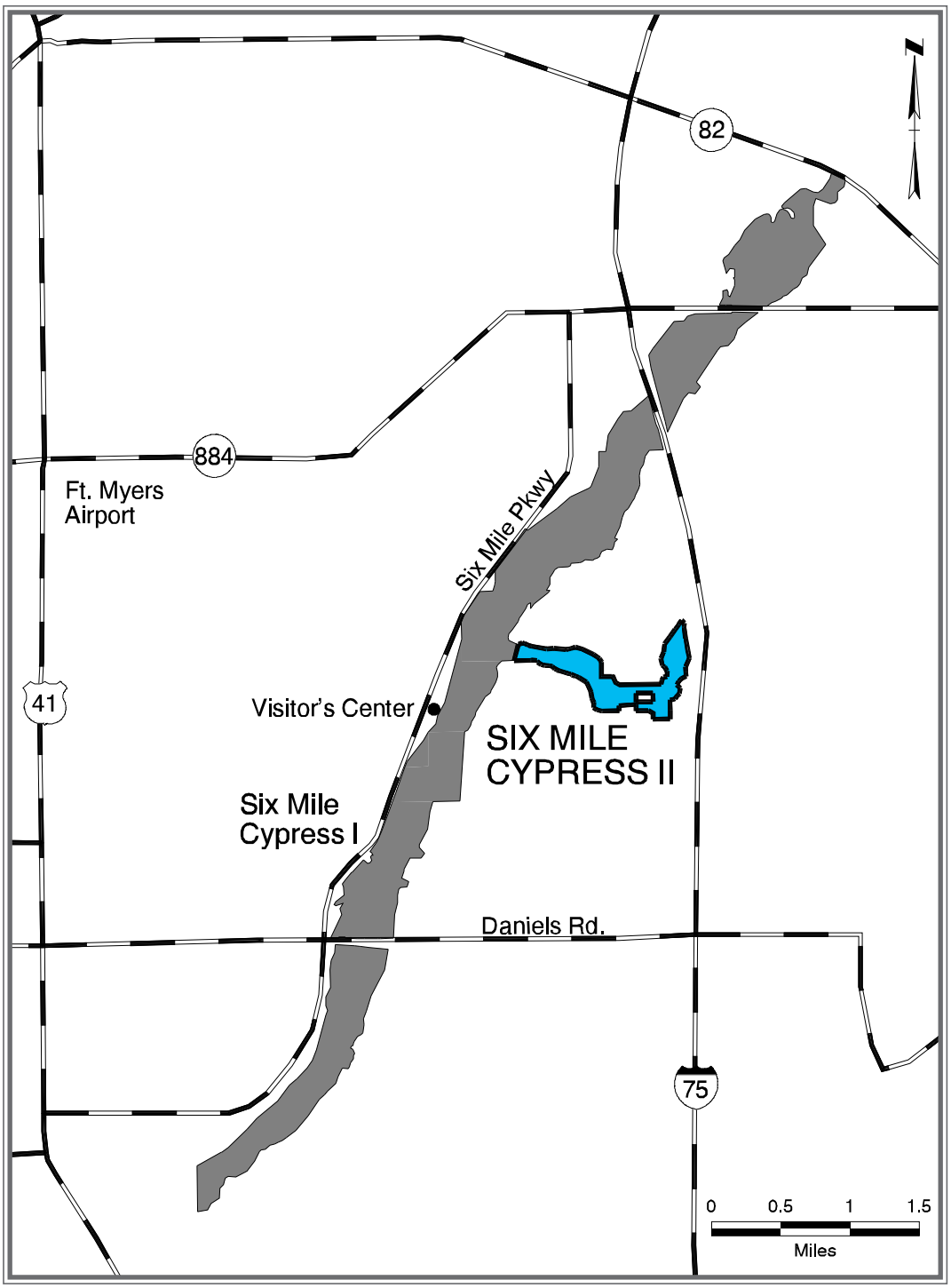
Recreation Potential

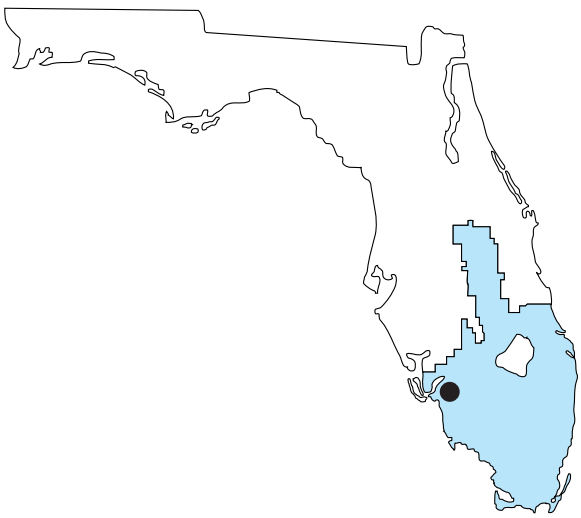
The slough has been used informally for both active and passive recreational activities for many years. The continuation of passive activities, such as fishing, picnicking, photography and nature observation, will be encouraged in appropriate locations within the preserve. Interpretive facilities consisting of an elevated boardwalk, covered amphitheater and parking area have been developed by Lee County to enhance visitor appreciation of the preserve. Special programs will be conducted by the Lee County Parks and Recreation Department. The Lee County School Board Department of Environmental Education will continue its past practice of conducting field trips to the slough.

County:
Lee

Total Project Area:
225 acres

Number of Owners:
Numerous





SOR Lands Acquired to Date
Potential Acquisition Areas
Other Conservation Areas
Other SOR Projects
1997 Project Additions
SOR Project Boundary

South Fork St. Lucie River

General Description

The project containing the South Fork of the St. Lucie River extends along both sides of the river for approximately 1.25 miles. The South Fork is one of South Florida's few remaining freeflowing blackwater streams. It is characterized by numerous curves with an overhanging canopy of cabbage palms, oaks, and maples.

District-owned property along the west bank of the river includes scrub, pine flatwoods, and floodplain hammock. A hiking trail runs parallel to the river and crosses through each of the community types. Lands along the east bank consist of floodplain swamp and mesic flatwoods.

In 1996, Martin County, in conjunction with Florida Communities Trust, acquired an additional 39 acres along the west bank, which also includes an island in the river, immediately north of the District-owned land. It is anticipated that Martin County will purchase an additional 150 acres to the west of the lands owned by the District and the county for an active recreation park, which would provide the South Fork natural area with better public access and parking.

Project Vision

The District envisions working with Martin County to expand public-use opportunities and to develop access and parking on the property owned by the county and Florida Communities Trust. District-owned land on the east side of the river connects with the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem SOR/CARL project.

The District hopes that a major purchase of more than 2,500 acres of that project in 1998 will protect a large expanse of mesic flatwoods and depression marshes that are the primary watershed to the South Fork.

Prescribed burning and control of exotic vegetation are ongoing management requirements on both sides of the river. Upland restoration is needed in former pastures on District- and county-owned portions.

Natural Resource Management

Activity	Acres	Proposed
Exotic Control	20	30
Fire Management	52	
Mowing/Chopping	50	100
Restoration		

	Ongoing	Complete
General Clean-up	•	
Waste Removal		•
Fencing/Posting		•
Security		
Private	•	

Public Use

	Yes	No
Fishing	•	
Hunting		•
Hiking	•	
Horseback Riding		•
Bicycling		•
Camping	•	
Airboating		•
Boating	•	
Canoeing	•	
Environmental Education	•	

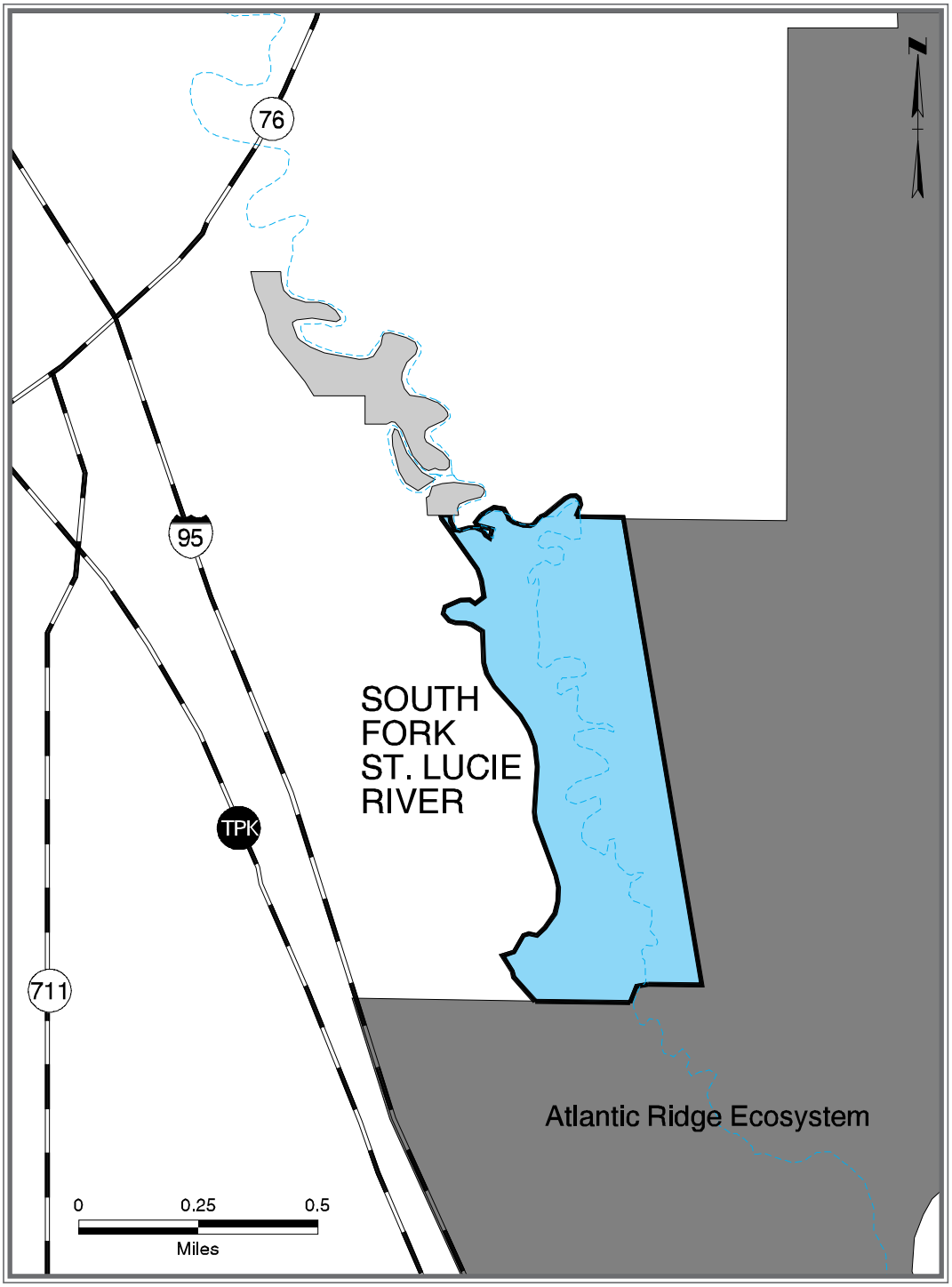
Planning

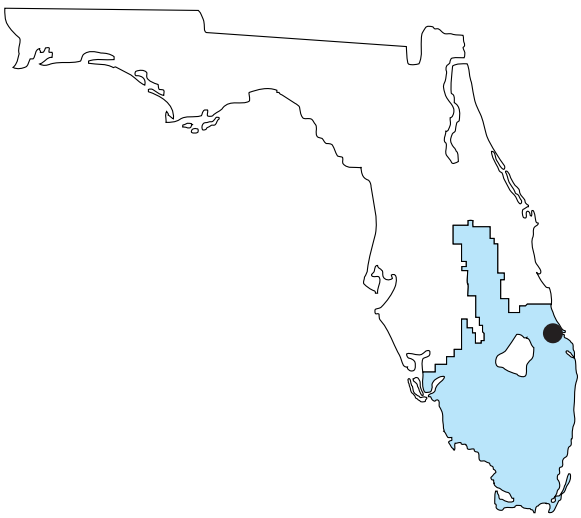
	Ongoing	Complete
Conceptual Planning		
Hydrologic Restoration Plan		
Public Input		
Public Information Meetings		
Cooperative Management Agreement(s)		
FTA		

County:
Martin

Total Project Area:
184 acres

Total Acres Acquired:
184





SOR Lands Acquired to Date
Potential Acquisition Areas
Other Conservation Areas
Other SOR Projects
1997 Project Additions
SOR Project Boundary

Southern Glades

General Description

The lands in this project are adjacent to the C-111 canal, east of Everglades National Park, west of U.S. 1, and south of State Road 27. The project will benefit the flow of water into Everglades National Park and Northeast Florida Bay. During 1997, the District acquired 164 acres within the project.

Project Vision

The District plans to use this property to provide sufficient good quality water to support interagency plans to restore the ecological functions of Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. Southern Glades functions as a recharge area for the Biscayne Aquifer and is important in maintaining a barrier to saltwater intrusion.

In an attempt to improve sheetflow conditions to Everglades National Park, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently modified the C-111, C-109 and C-108 canals.

The natural communities within this property are in good condition, except the transitional area adjacent to the agricultural fields. That area is heavily infested with exotic vegetation. The District intends to maintain the quality of these communities by continuing with the prescribed burn, exotic plant control, and security programs.

Natural Resource Management

Activity	Acres	Proposed
Exotic Control	8,357 trees	yearly
Fire Management	0	2,500
Mowing/Chopping		
Restoration	4.25 miles	

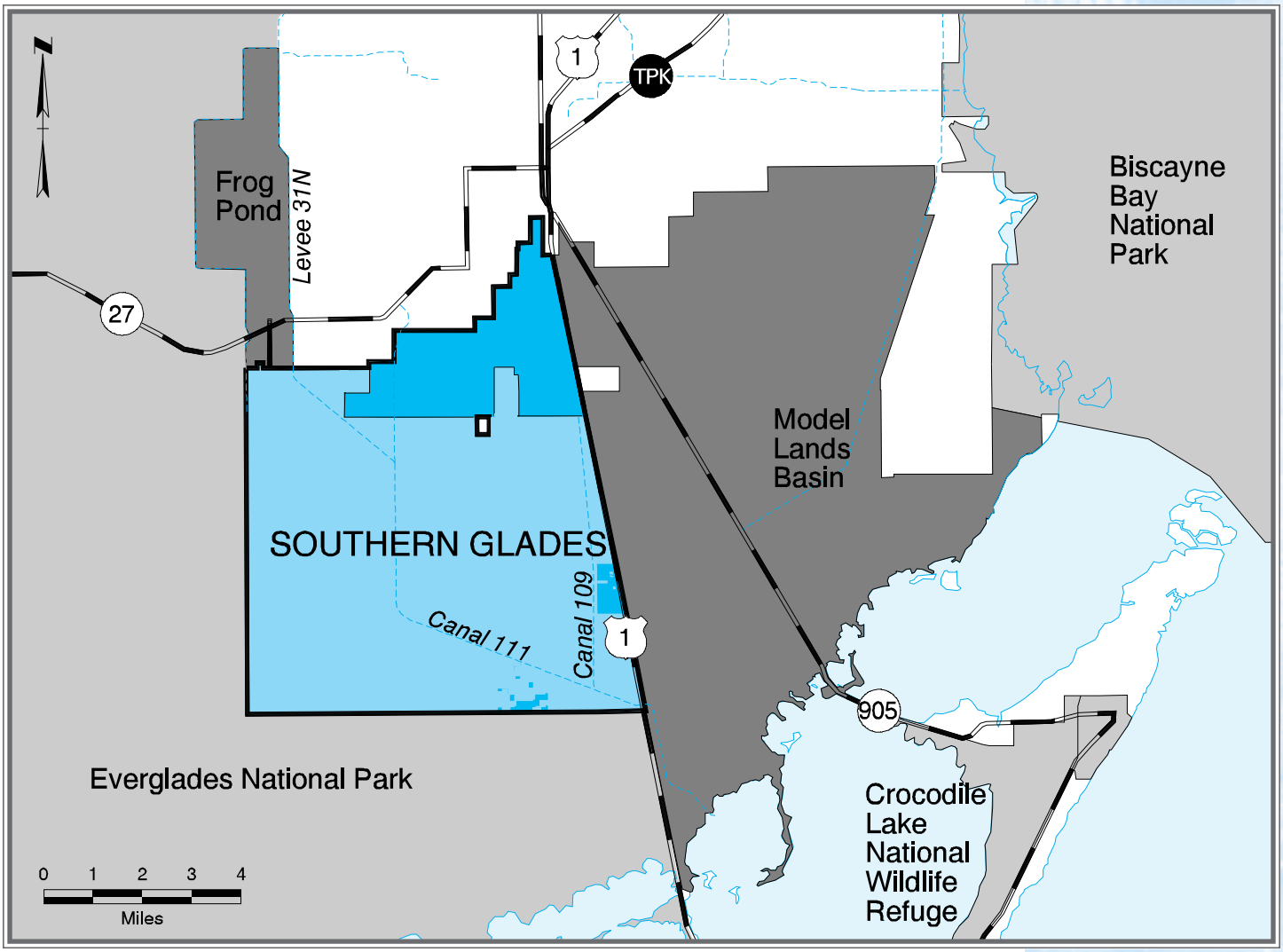
	Ongoing	Complete
General Clean-up	•	
Waste Removal	•	
Fencing/Posting	•	
Security		
GFC	•	

Public Use

	Yes	No
Fishing	•	
Hunting	•	
Hiking	•	
Horseback Riding	•	
Bicycling	•	
Camping		•
Airboating	•	
Environmental Education		•
Greenway System		
South Dade Greenway		

Planning

	Ongoing	Complete
Conceptual Planning	•	
Hydrologic Restoration Plan	•	
Cooperative Management Agreement(s)		
GFC		

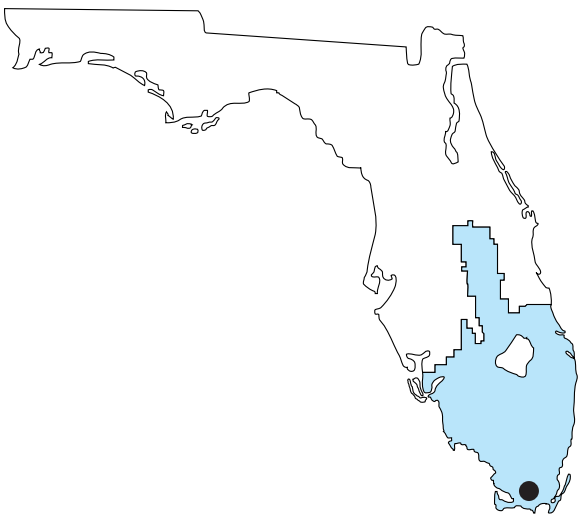


County:
Dade

Total Project Area:
37,620 acres

Total Acres Acquired:
30,722

Acres Remaining:
7,244



SOR Lands Acquired to Date
Potential Acquisition Areas
Other Conservation Areas
Other SOR Projects
1997 Project Additions
SOR Project Boundary

Stairstep Mitigation Area

General Description

The Stairstep project, or Corkscrew mitigation bank, is located off Corkscrew Road in southern Lee County, approximately 4.75 miles east of the junction with Alico Road and 7.5 miles east of Interstate 75. The northern boundary is next to an area established as mitigation for impacts associated with the Southwest Florida International Airport, the Stairstep mitigation project. From July 1, 1996, to September 30, 1997, the District acquired 632.6 acres.

Importance of Water Management, Water Supply, and Conservation and Protection of Water Resources

The project lands are adjacent to the headwater's basin of the Flint Pen Strand, known as Imperial Marsh. Runoff from the southern two-thirds of the property drains via ditches and swales directly to the upper portion of the strand south of Corkscrew Road.

Preservation of existing wetlands and restoration of degraded wetlands on the property would maintain wet-season runoff near the headwaters of the strand to the north of Corkscrew Road. These headwaters have been identified as a possible location for public water-supply wellfields, and several existing wellfields are located in the vicinity.

Retention of additional surface water in this area would improve recharge to the surficial aquifer supplying those wellfields and would provide additional flood control benefits downstream. Restoring wetlands on the property would contribute to improved water quality of surface runoff flowing into the strand and eventually to Estero Bay.

Potential for Restoring and/or Protecting Natural State and Condition

The property is next to one of the highest quality ecosystems and wildlife corridors in eastern Lee Country. The goal of the restoration plan is to reclaim the historic natural system existing on the site before drainage, development, agriculture or other human-induced activities.

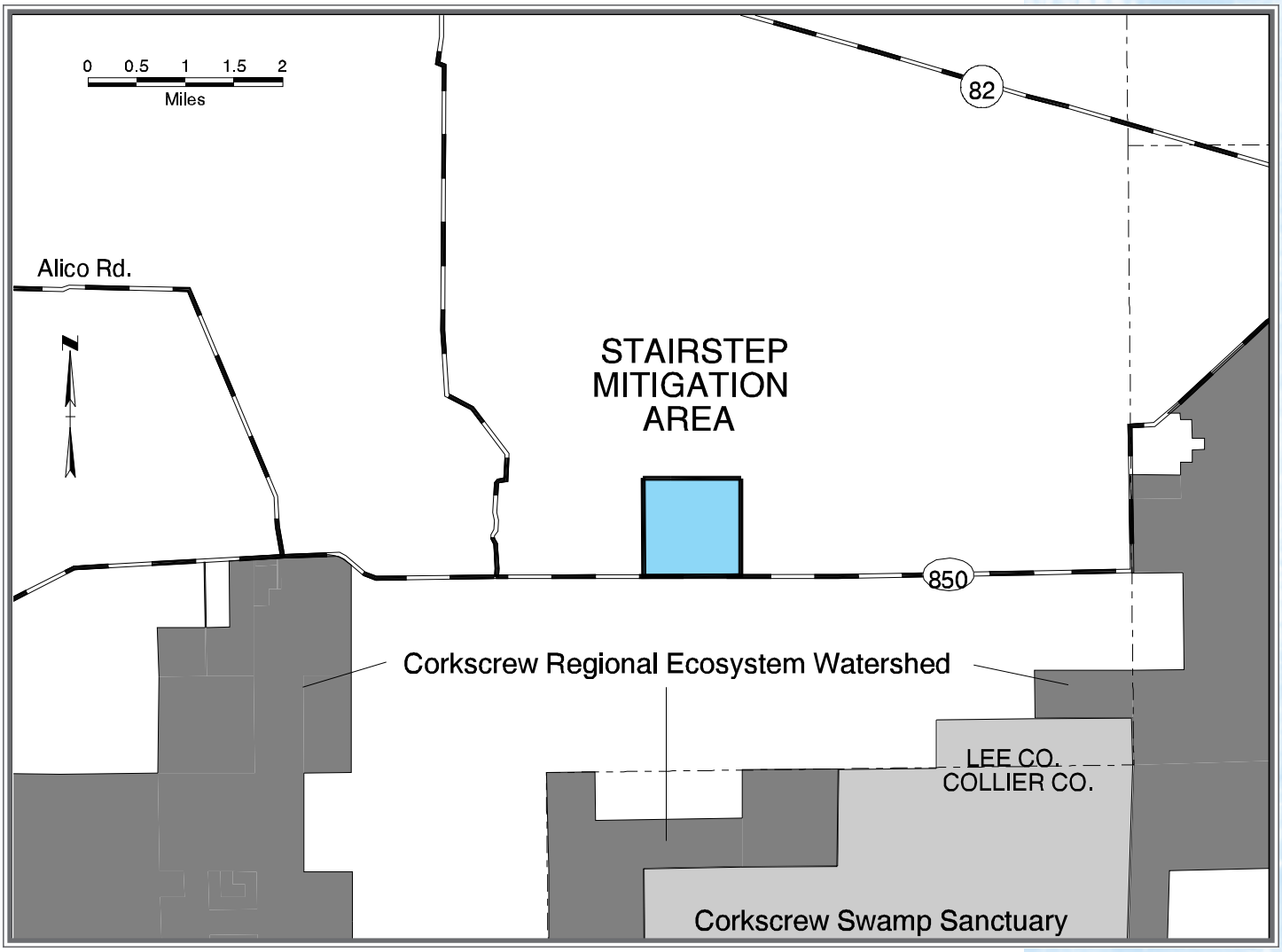
Through hydrologic restoration, removal of exotic plant species, regeneration of plant species indigenous to the natural system and fire management, the historic ecological communities can be restored. The benefit of undertaking such an effort is improved wildlife habitat value to the site and region, improved water quality, and flood protection.

Potential for Managing and Maintaining in an Environmentally Acceptable Manner

The management mission is to restore and maintain the ecological functions and values of the site. Fire management and exotic plant control are the primary land-management challenges on the Stairstep project. Additional management issues that must be considered include cattle grazing, fencing, endangered species protection, public use development, and road and trail maintenance.

Recreation Potential

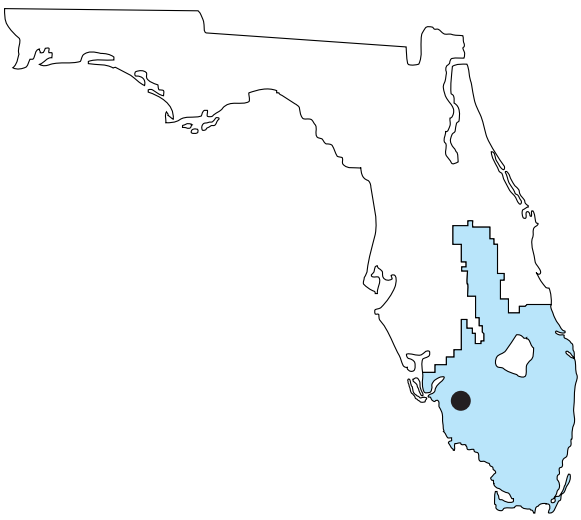
This site offers opportunity for a trailhead to serve a hiking system that could tie into the larger mitigation project to the north. The lands may offer opportunity for environmental education.



Counties:
Lee

Total Project Area:
632.6 acres

Total Acres Acquired:
632.6



SOR Lands Acquired to Date
Potential Acquisition Areas
Other Conservation Areas
Other SOR Projects
1997 Project Additions
SOR Project Boundary

Stormwater Treatment Areas

General Description

The Stormwater Treatment Areas are filter marshes that will naturally remove nutrients from stormwater runoff flowing from the Everglades Agricultural Area before the water enters the Everglades Protection Area. The 1994 Everglades Forever Act mandated construction of the STAs. The large manmade marshes are key to improving the water quality in the Everglades.

Five STAs are currently proposed under the Everglades cleanup plan, with each serving the area that feeds the primary agricultural drainage canals of the EAA — the West Palm Beach (STA-1), Hillsboro (STA-2), North New River (STA-3 and 4) and Miami canals (STA-5).

The District selected the sites for the STAs so it could efficiently use the existing network of canals and water-control structures to intercept the nutrient-laden stormwater flows. The exact size and location of STAs are continuing to be refined, according to the needs of the restoration plan.

During 1997, the District acquired 11,052 acres within the project area. The Governing Board approved an additional 2,461 acres for acquisition.

Restoring and/or Protecting Natural State and Condition

The District will design, operate, and manage the STAs to filter harmful nutrients contained in stormwater runoff before this water enters the water conservation areas, including the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Everglades National Park. The size and location of the STAs will allow significant improvements in the manner in which water flows to natural areas by allowing the reintroduction of sheet flow into tens of thousands of acres of the Everglades.

Managing and Maintaining in an Environmentally Acceptable Manner

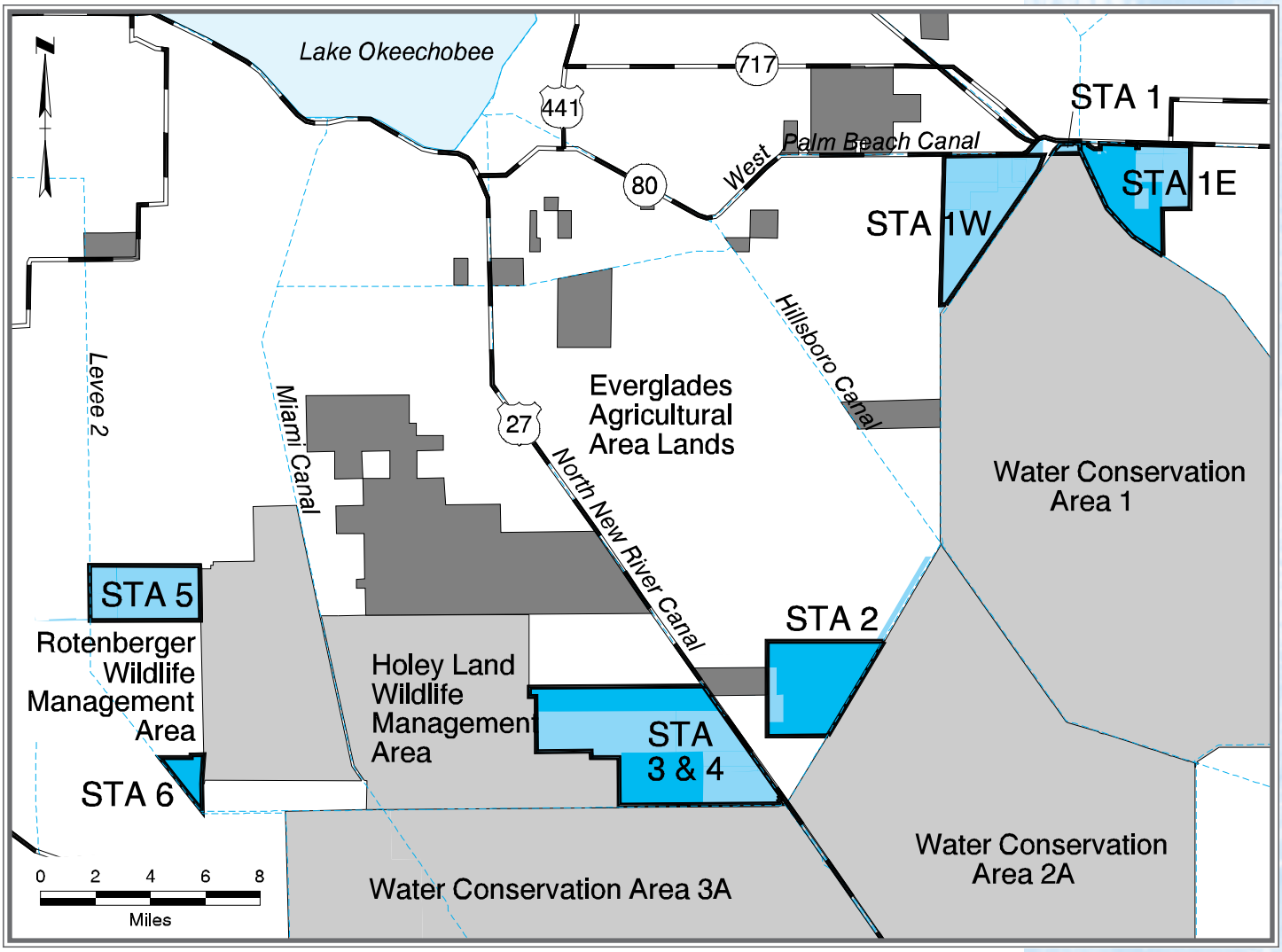
The STAs will be subject to intense management and monitoring to get the best nutrient-removal performance. Additionally, the District is considering various options to prevent unauthorized entry and trespassing.

Interim Management

Construction of the treatment cells within the STAs varies. In 1995, the District entered an agreement with Pride of Florida to manage an existing citrus grove in STA-1East. Under a similar agreement with the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, waterfowl hunting will be available in STA-3/4. The District is preparing for the construction of STA-1 West and recovering some acquisition costs by selling the trees on a large tree farm that presently occupies the property.

Public Recreation

The District will examine public use and recreation on the STA lands in the planning and design process. Staff will evaluate parcels for resource value and public use potential. Potential public uses will also be examined for their effect on environmental sensitivity and water-management values of the lands.



County:
Palm Beach

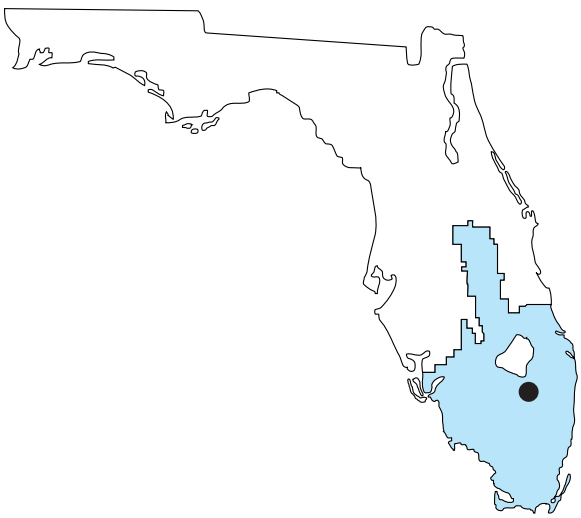
Total Project Area:
47,630 acres*

Total Acres Acquired:
33,856

Acres Remaining:
13,774

Number of Owners:
Numerous

*Acreage is inclusive of the Everglades Nutrient Removal Project



SOR Lands Acquired to Date
Potential Acquisition Areas
Other Conservation Areas
Other SOR Projects
1997 Project Additions
SOR Project Boundary

Ten Mile Creek

General Description

Ten Mile Creek is a 1,266-acre project in St. Lucie County, just south of the creek and west of Florida's Turnpike. Ten Mile Creek is a major tributary to the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, and it contributes nearly 25 percent of the river's flow. The site presently consists of an old citrus grove and some creek floodplain. The District would develop this water-resource project into a regional stormwater attenuation reservoir to restore more natural hydroperiods to the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon. The Governing approved this project and added it to the Five-Year Plan in January 1997.

Importance of water management, water supply, and the conservation and protection of water resources

The Indian River Lagoon SWIM Plan identifies excess freshwater as a major pollutant to the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon. Construction and improvement of the C-23, 24, 25, and 44 canals and smaller secondary drainage features have hastened the delivery of excess freshwater to these saline water bodies.

Construction of canals enlarged the basin areas draining to the estuary, and simultaneously, the canals greatly increased the land's drainage efficiency. Additional land and efficient drainage causes too much fresh water in the wet season and too little fresh water draining to the estuary in the dry season.

The altered freshwater delivery changes the salinity concentration of the estuary and lagoon. The changed salinity is frequently retards the growth of sea grasses and benthic organisms, such as oysters, that are the base of the estuary's food chain.

Potential for restoring and/or protecting natural state and condition

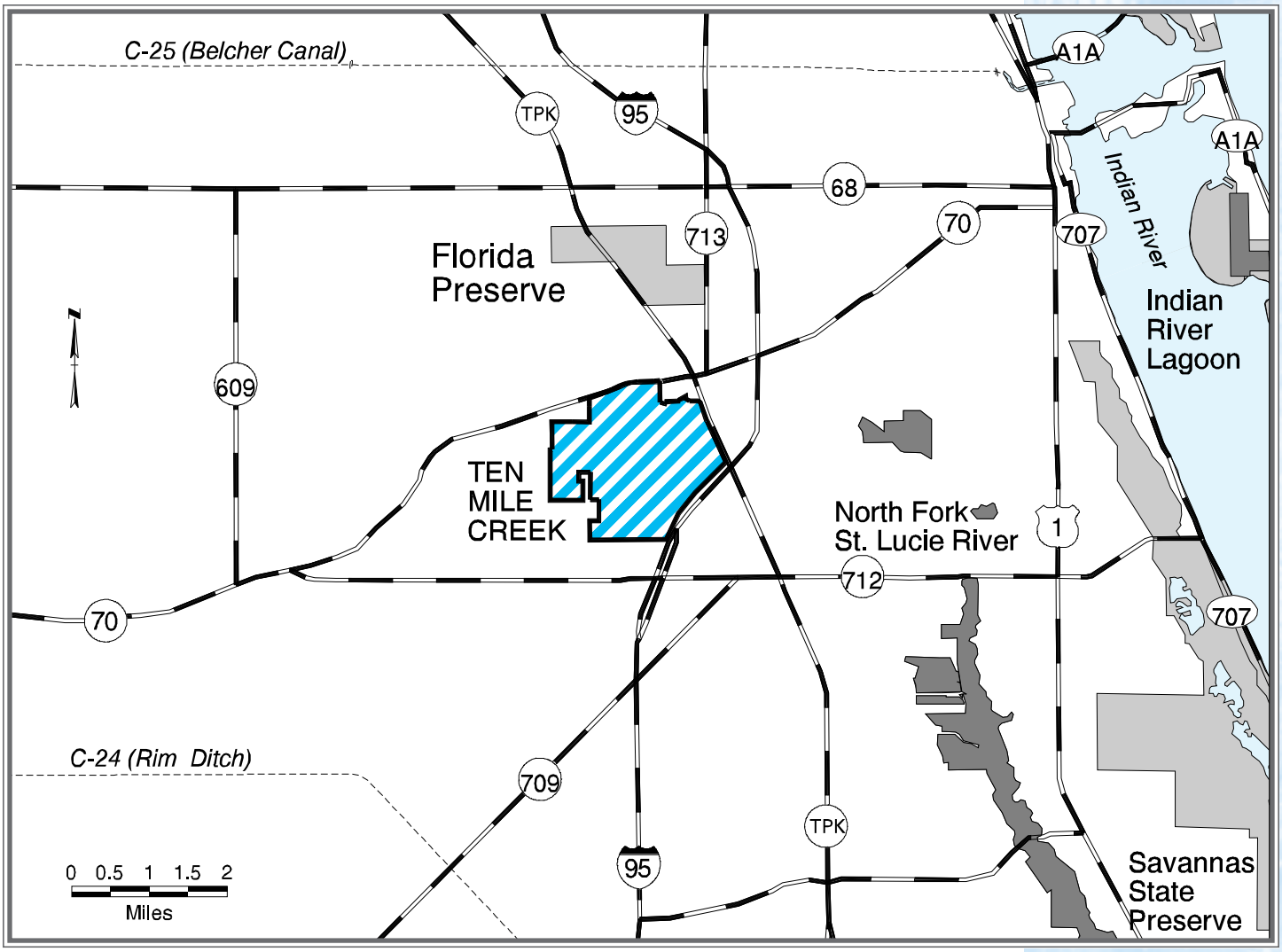
The District would use this property to construct facilities to restore a more natural hydroperiod to the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon. This site alone will not be sufficient to meet that goal, but it is an excellent start toward meeting the freshwater delivery targets developed through the Indian River Lagoon SWIM Plan.

Potential for managing and maintaining in an environmentally acceptable manner

The District proposes developing this site into a deep-water reservoir, so most of the typical needs of natural-areas management will not apply. Control of exotics around the perimeter will still be necessary.

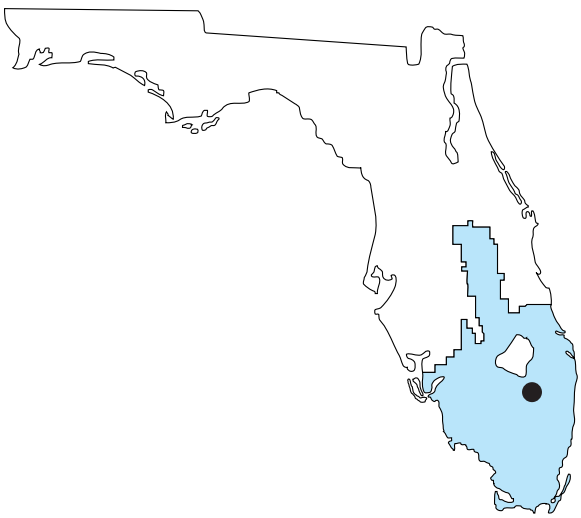
Recreation potential

Excellent opportunities for fishing and waterfowl hunting may exist once reservoir development is complete.



County:
St. Lucie

Total Project Area:
1,266 acres



SOR Lands Acquired to Date
Potential Acquisition Areas
Other Conservation Areas
Other SOR Projects
1997 Project Additions
SOR Project Boundary

Tibet Butler Preserve

(Previously Lake Forest Preserve)

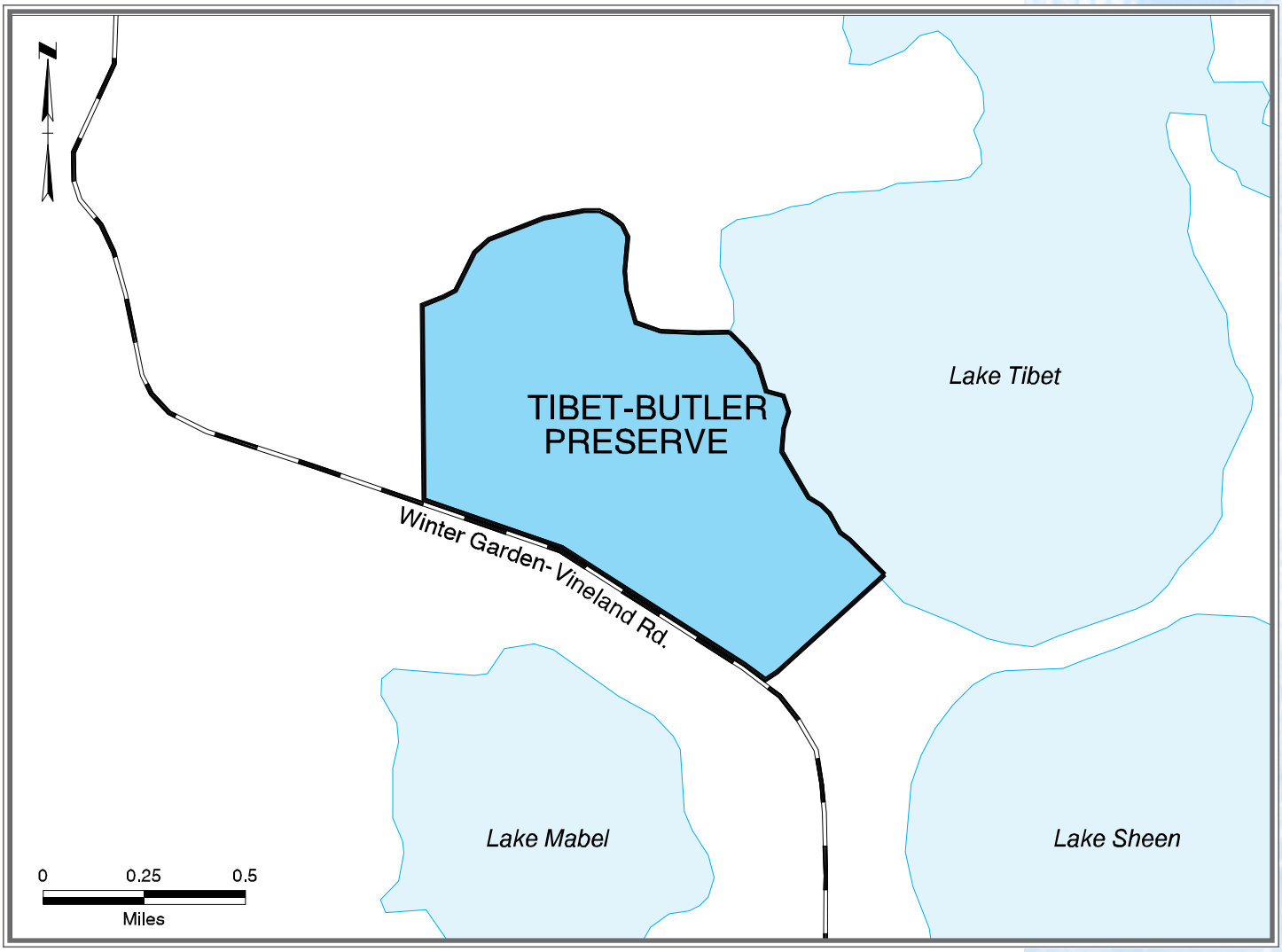
General Description

The Preserve covers 439 acres along the southwest shore of Lake Tibet-Butler in Orange County. The vegetative communities include major areas of Bay Swamp, Pine Flatwoods and Wetland Forested Mixed and smaller areas of Xeric Oak, burned trees, Coniferous Plantation, Cypress, Pond Pine, Freshwater Marsh and Emergent Aquatic Vegetation. The Tibet-Butler Preserve site includes approximately 4,000 feet of shoreline on Lake Tibet. The majority of the site is within the 100-year flood plain and is subject to seasonal inundation. State Road 535 (Winter Garden-Vineland Road) traverses the southwest edge of the property.

Project Vision

Orange County staff considers the Tibet-Butler Preserve site to be ideal for passive recreation and public education. The preserve contains diverse natural features and a mosaic of habitats typical to central Florida. The location allows access from major roadways in the Orange County area. The County planned and constructed a nature center and the first one and one-half miles of trails. They used field design adjustments to maximize environmentally sensitive siting. The County plans extensive resource enhancement and preservation programs including: fire management, exotic control, forest management and habitat management for endangered species.

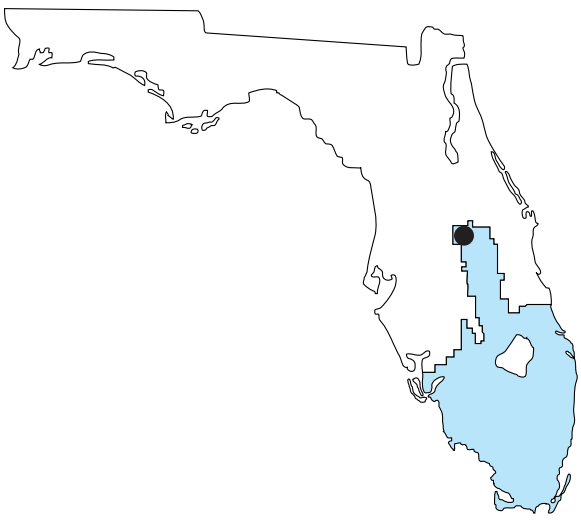
The master plan concentrates the nature center and related uses within the pine flatwood community next to SR 535, in the southwest portion of the site. From the nature center, trail systems will extend outward reaching into wetland and bog communities, xeric communities and marsh and lake communities. In some areas boardwalks will extend in short runs from the main trail loops to observation blinds. More than nine miles of trails are planned. Other facilities include controlled primitive group camping areas as well as group and individual picnic areas.



County:
Orange

Total Project Area:
439 acres

Total Acres Acquired:
439



SOR Lands Acquired to Date
Potential Acquisition Areas
Other Conservation Areas
Other SOR Projects
1997 Project Additions
SOR Project Boundary

Twelve Mile Slough

General Description

The property known as Twelve Mile Slough is located in Hendry County and is tributary to the much larger and regionally significant Okaloacoochee Slough. It covers 3,300 acres and contains a mosaic of uplands and wetlands, as well as improved pasture areas which appear to be reverting to native range.

Importance of Water Management, Water Supply, and the Conservation and Protection of Water Resources

Twelve Mile Slough is a headwater tributary to Okaloacoochee Slough, which supplies a major source of water for Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve and Big Cypress National Preserve. Surface water storage in the numerous wetlands provides for groundwater recharge of the underlying Surficial Aquifer, and provides surface water supply to the Caloosahatchee River.

The site contains a variety of vegetative communities, including several types of freshwater wetlands, pine flatwoods, and oak/cabbage palm hammocks.

Potential for Restoring and/or Protecting Natural State and Condition

Numerous small ditches and swales, which have resulted in shortened hydroperiods in many of the wetlands, were excavated as part of ranch management practices to increase the amount of grazing area. Although the ditching is extensive, it is easily correctable through earthen ditch plugs.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, in its 1993 publication "Florida Panther Habitat Protection Plan," identified this property as having occasional use by panthers, and recommended public acquisition of the tract.

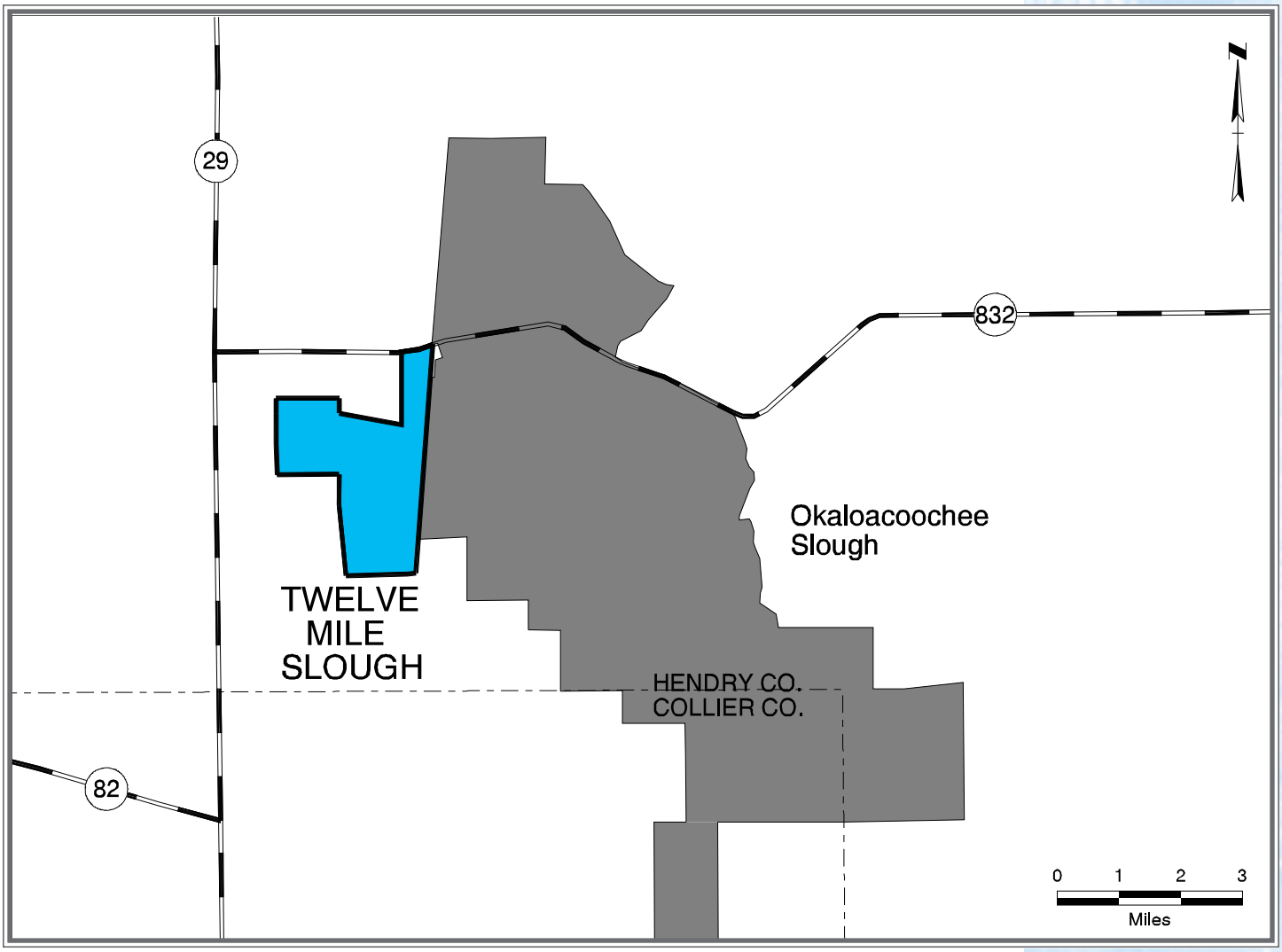
Potential for Managing and Maintaining in an Environmentally Acceptable Manner

Initial observations indicate that the property is overgrazed and could benefit from an ecological grazing plan. Prescribed burning and exotic control will continue to be management needs. Ditch plugging, to allow hydrologic restoration, will be extensive and time consuming, but a relatively easy undertaking.

This site is remote; however, pasture land conversion to citrus groves is rapidly occurring in the area. There may be an opportunity for this site to be acquired, restored, and managed with mitigation funding.

Recreation Potential

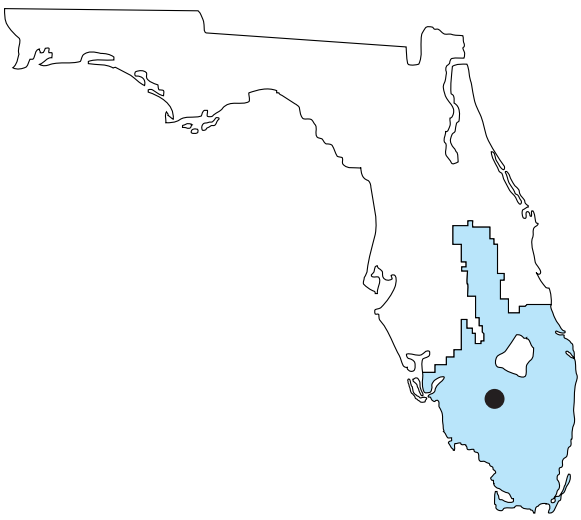
The mixture of habitat types would make this an interesting area for hiking trail development. However, its remoteness would probably make its use limited. An abandoned CSX Railroad grade runs adjacent to the property and lends opportunities for a "Rails to Trails" conversion, which could connect with hiking trails and primitive camping on this site.



County:
Hendry

Total Project Area:
3,300 acres

Number of Owners:
One



SOR Lands Acquired to Date
Potential Acquisition Areas
Other Conservation Areas
Other SOR Projects
1997 Project Additions
SOR Project Boundary

Upper Lakes Basin Watershed

General Description

The Upper Lakes Basin Watershed project area includes a substantial portion of the Reedy Creek and Lake Marion Creek drainage basins. This project is the headwaters for the entire Kissimmee-Lake Okeechobee-Everglades ecosystem.

Protection of this watershed is a critical link in the restoration of this entire system. Contained within the project are large expanses of scrub. mesic and wet flatwoods, hydric hammock, and floodplain forest.

Reedy Creek Swamp is an extensive area of mixed hardwood/cypress swamp running for nearly 25 miles through western Osceola County, from the boundary of the Reedy Creek Improvement District to Cypress Lake. It includes the Huckleberry Islands and totals more than 30,000 acres.

Lake Marion Creek is in Polk County and flows from Lake Marion north and then southeasterly to Lake Hatchineha. The project area totals approximately 17,300 acres, 3,800 acres of which are within the Southwest Florida Water Management District. It includes the 1,324-acre Horse Creek Scrub, designated for acquisition under the CARL program, and the Snell Creek Drainage Basin.

The District envisions the lands in this project being acquired with assistance from Southwest Florida Water Management District and the state (CARL). Lands acquired in the Upper Lakes Basin Watershed will connect with other properties being purchased as part of the Kissimmee River restoration.

Most of the project is forested swamp and needs no restoration; however, the project also contains parcels of scrub that have been highly disturbed. Between July 1996 and September 1997, the District acquired 1,282 acres.

(Note: The map symbol for "SOR Acquired Lands to date" includes easements as well as lands owned in fee.)

Importance of Water Management, Water Supply, and Conservation and Protection of Water Resources

Reedy Creek serves as the headwaters for Lake Russell and Cypress Lake. Peak discharges from major storms are modified and stored within the swamp and provide year-round base flow for downstream lakes.

Wetlands comprise approximately 50 percent of the Lake Marion Creek portion of the project, and most are within the 100-year flood plain. The area is very important to the recharge of the Floridan Aquifer because the deep sands of the Lake Wales Ridge allow water to infiltrate, rather than run off.

Lake Marion serves as the headwaters for Lake Marion Creek, which combines with Snell and Horse creeks to provide a constant supply of high-quality water to Lake Hatchineha, which in turn discharges to Lake Kissimmee, the Kissimmee River, and Lake Okeechobee. All three lakes are priority water bodies under the SWIM program.

Restoring and/or Protecting Natural State and Condition

Reedy Creek Swamp has been fairly well protected because of its large size and inaccessibility. Unless high-density urban encroachments or damaging silviculture operations are permitted in the future, the swamp should be able to buffer itself. Exotic vegetation is not a problem, and it does not appear that hydrologic restoration will be necessary.

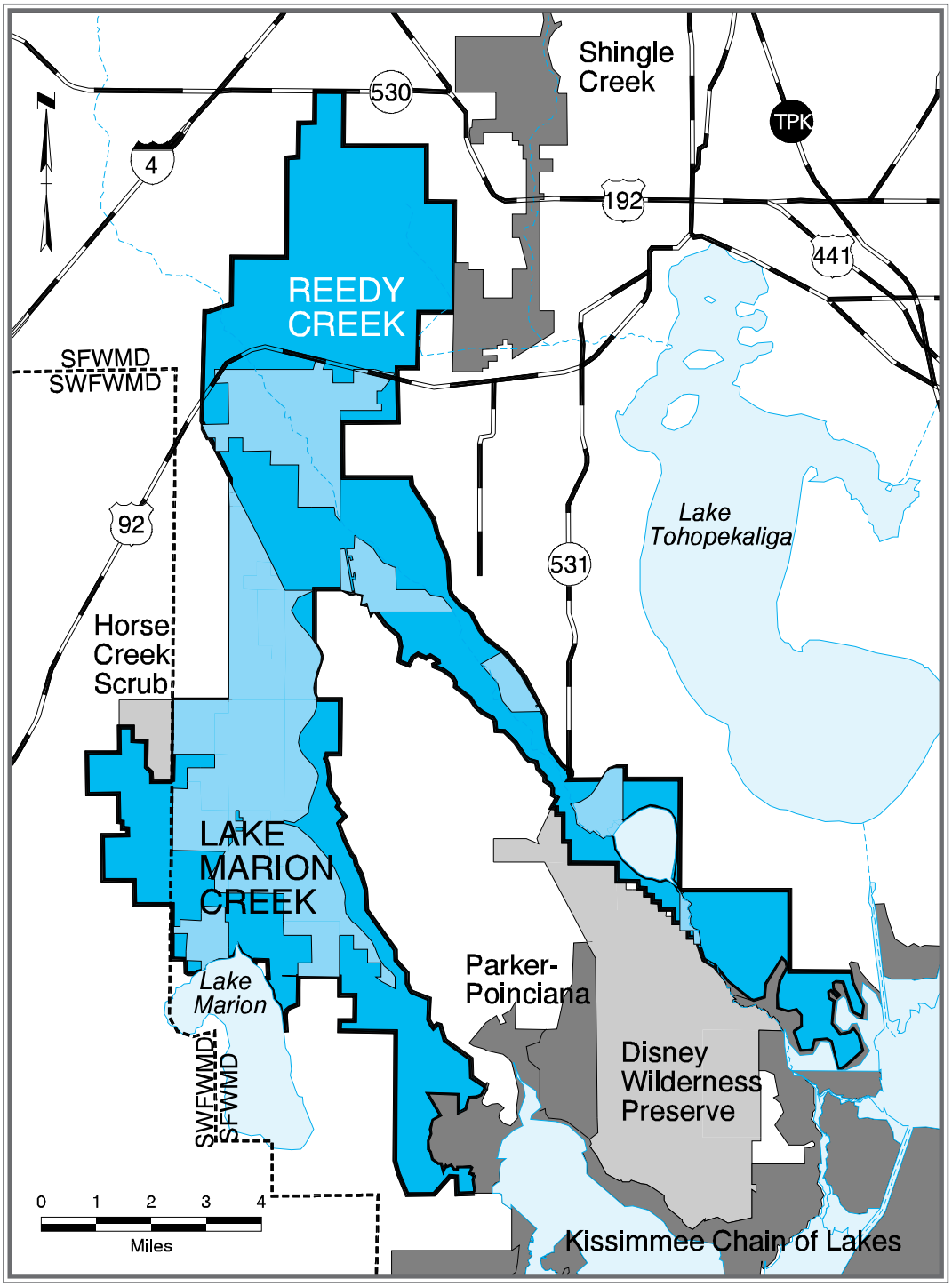
The natural habitats within the Lake Marion Creek area are generally in good condition, although development has destroyed some scrub areas. The size of the property and the deep swamps allows the interior portions to remain buffered from activities along the ridge.

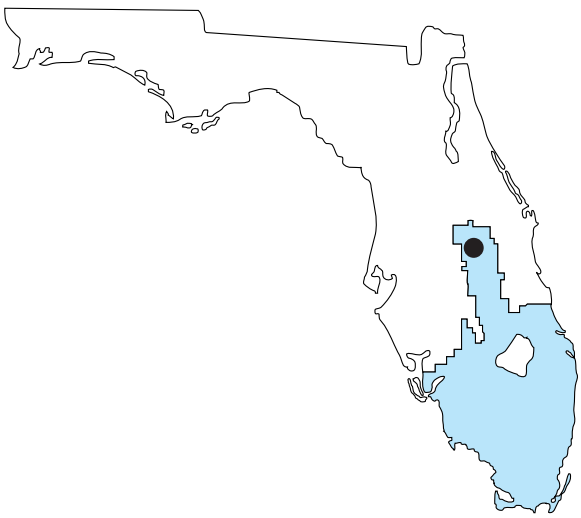
Managing and Maintaining in an Environmentally Acceptable Manner

The District prepared a conceptual management plan for the Lake Marion/Reedy Creek portions of the project before acquisition. Information generated from a detailed environmental assessment, including plant community maps, locations of listed species, and wildlife information, will guide development of operational management plans.

Public Recreation

The District anticipates that recreation will be centered on passive uses, such as hiking and canoeing. Opportunities for both uses on newly acquired lands will be explored.





SOR Lands Acquired to Date

Potential Acquisition Areas

Other Conservation Areas

Other SOR Projects

1997 Project Additions

SOR Project Boundary

Counties:
Osceola and Polk

Total Project Area:
43,500 acres

Total Acres Acquired:
12,545 acres

Acres Remaining:
30,955 acres

Number of Owners:
Numerous

Water Conservation Areas

General Description

The three water conservation areas are part of the original Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project. The large areas of remnant Everglades surrounded by levees and canals were created to provide water supply and flood control to South Florida.

The SOR project is designed to complete the public acquisition of outstanding land interests to protect this area's role in long-term water-resource management. The original legislation for the Save Our Rivers program mandated this acquisition. Between July 1996 and June 1997, the District acquired 1,730 acres.

Restoring and/or Protecting Natural State and Condition

The District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulate water levels in the three WCAs in accordance with criteria originally established in the 1950s and modified over the years to meet changing conditions.

The general purpose of the "regulation schedules" is to store floodwaters from developed areas adjacent to the WCAs for later use during the dry season. In establishing the schedules, the Corps considered the needs of wildlife indigenous to the WCAs and the requirements of emergent vegetation.

Water releases from the WCAs during the dry season and particularly during drought conditions are vital to maintaining adequate water levels in coastal canals and wellfields and to preventing saltwater intrusion. Flows from WCA-3 are essential to the well-being of Everglades National Park.

The amount and manner of delivery of these flows has and continues to be the subject of intense public debate. Much work has been done to devise a delivery system that most closely approximates historical patterns (See C-111 SOR project discussions).

Managing and Maintaining in an Environmentally Acceptable Manner

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manage WCA-1 as the Arthur R. Marshal Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission manage WCA-2 and WCA-3 as the Everglades Wildlife Management Area under separate cooperative and license agreements with the District. Both agencies have developed management plans and actively manage the fish and wildlife resources and public use of the areas under their charge.

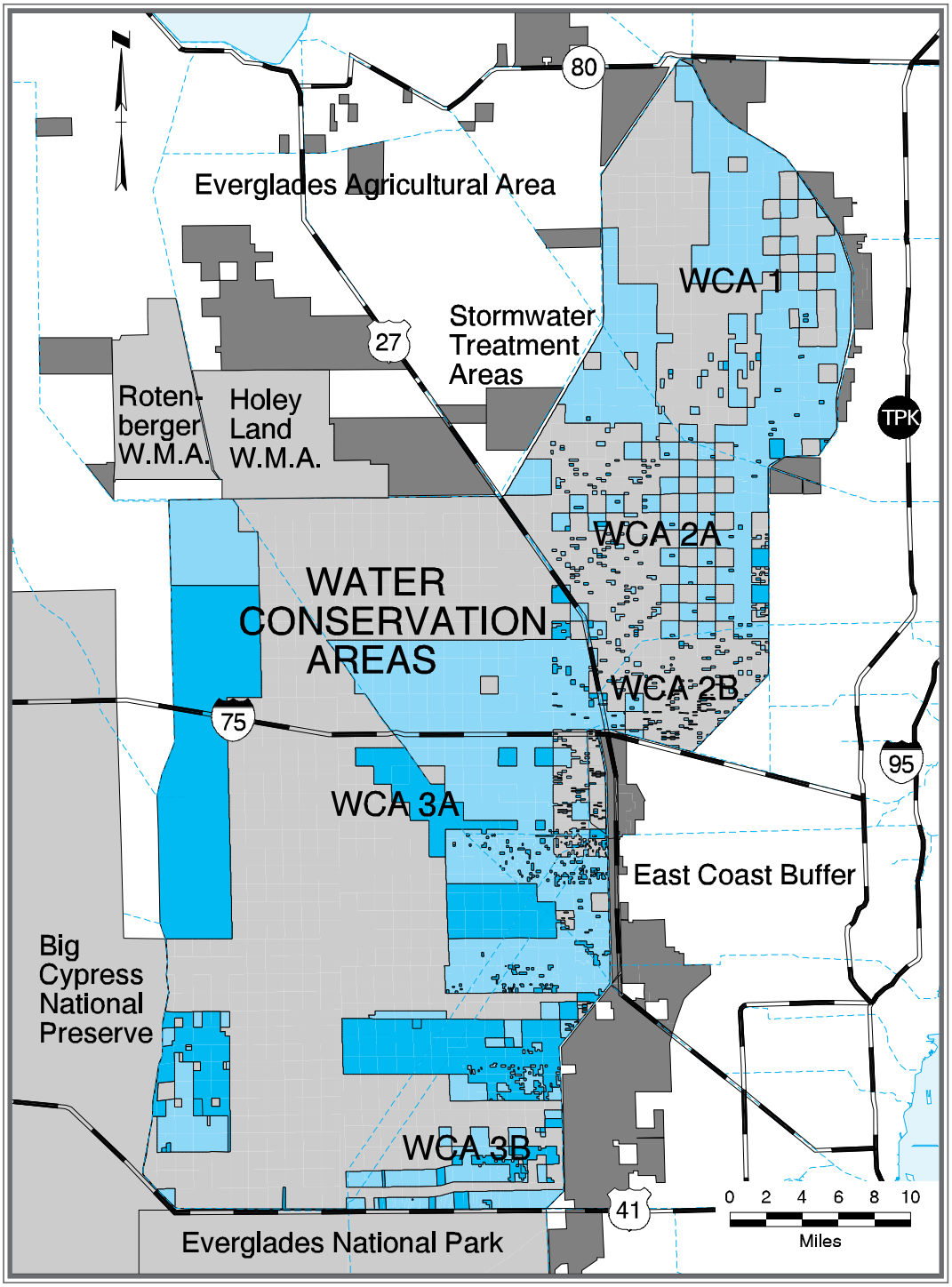
The District has conducted environmental research in the WCAs for many years, concentrating on the effects of water quantity and quality on the plants and animals. In recent years, efforts to halt backpumping into Lake Okeechobee have resulted in increased water flows from the Everglades Agricultural Area south into WCA-3. Because of the high amounts of nutrients in the farm runoff, this action in turn appears to have triggered certain vegetative changes in WCA-3.

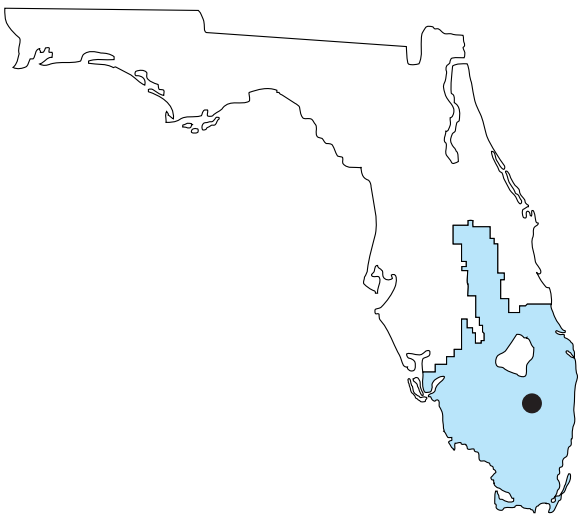
Officials at Everglades National Park are concerned that water-quality problems appearing in WCA-3 will move on to the park unless remedial action is taken. All parties are actively working to find acceptable solutions to this problem.

Public Recreation

The water conservation areas are important outdoor recreation areas used heavily by the public for fishing, hunting, boating, frogging, and nature appreciation. Over the years, numerous recreation sites and facilities have been provided for public access.

Site development has generally followed the recommendations set forth in two published recreational plans: Recreation Plan, the Area South of Lake Okeechobee, prepared in 1960 for the District by the Florida Development Commission and Recreational Development of the Everglades Water Conservation Areas and the Five-Year Plan 1973-1978, prepared in 1974 by the Everglades Recreational Planning Board. Both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission have established rules and regulations governing public use of these areas.





SOR Lands Acquired to Date

Potential Acquisition Areas

Other Conservation Areas

Other SOR Projects

1997 Project Additions

SOR Project Boundary

Counties:
Broward, Dade and Palm Beach

Total Project Area:
103,635 acres

Total Acres Acquired:
60,089

Acres Remaining:
43,546

Appendices

South Florida Water Management District

Save Our Rivers Five Year Plan

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Michael Slayton

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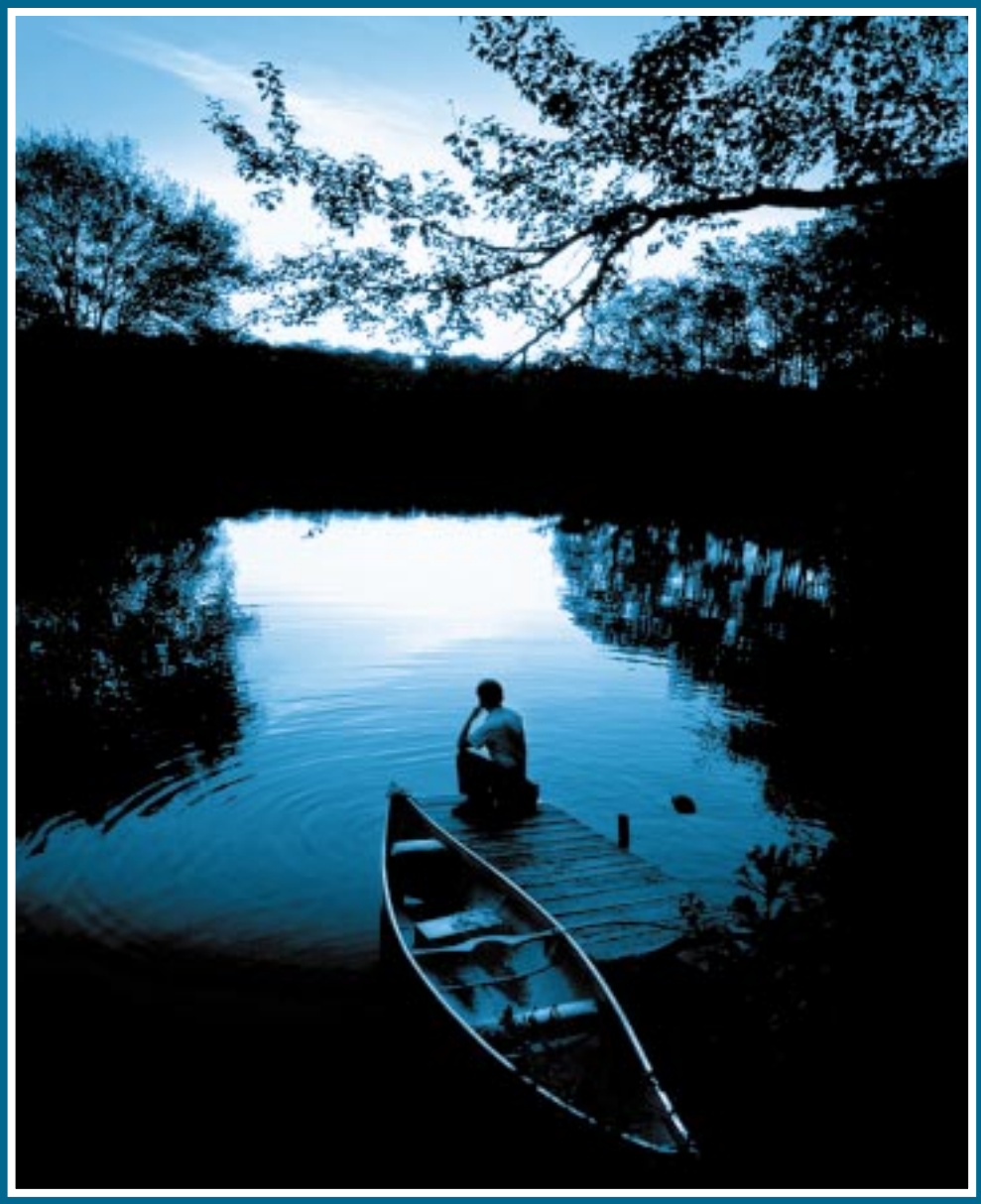
Front Cover
Natural vegetation drapes across the gently flowing North Fork of the St. Lucie River.

Save Our Rivers
SOR
Land For Waters' Sake



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